

Hafa Adai!

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Chamber awards 6 scholarships

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce

gave away \$12,000 worth of scholarship grants during its general membership meeting yesterday at the Royal Taga Room of the Saipan

World Resort.

The six awardees were four high school students and a college and a vocational student.

"The SCC Education Committee reviewed all 36 applications and

based their decision on the awardees' academic merit and contributions to the community," said Chamber president Velma Palacios.

The high school awardees are Mt. See CHAMBER on **Page 4**

The 2017 Saipan Chamber of Commerce scholars pose with Chamber officers and Education Committee members.

BEA CABRERA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man with a plea deal with the U.S. government has exposed an alleged large-scale birth tourism business on Saipan that allegedly uses a farm to house pregnant women.

Richard Peng, through counsel Michael Dotts, revealed that his former partner ran a beef noodle restaurant while doing birth tourism business on the side.

Dotts said that Peng's former business partner made his property on the island available specifically to house

» **Pregnant women allegedly housed at farm on Saipan**

Peng.

Peng, also known as Pai Peng and Tong-Long Peng, was charged in

federal court with one count of harboring illegal aliens. The offense carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

Peng pleaded guilty on Aug. 4, 2016, as part of a plea deal. He will be sentenced on Monday, June 12, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In one case, Peng allowed a pregnant Chinese woman to stay in his residence after the woman's condi-

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INSIDE



ASIA

It was a plot sketched in chilling detail with pens on the back of a calendar.

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ENVIRONMENT

The discovery of a new sea snail in the Florida Keys has scientists worried.

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LIFE & STYLE

George and Amal Clooney's twins have arrived.

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Local

Chamber outlines CW-1 'wish list'

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has come up with a "wish list" that it hopes the U.S. Congress will act on to help sustain the CNMI's workforce and economy.

At its general membership meeting yesterday at the Saipan World Resort, Chamber president Velma Palacios also affirmed that a consultant has been hired in Washington, D.C. to help the Chamber in its efforts with the visa program for foreign workers. She did not identify the consultant's name.

"The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. has been officially organized and has hired a consultant in D.C. to help us in our efforts with our CW-1 program," said Palacios. "Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and [Delegate Gregorio] Kilili [C. Sablan (Ind-MP)] have asked the business community and private sector for help and organizing this alliance is how we are going to help them."

The NMBAC aims to get a comprehensive legisla-

tion passed to keep the CW-1 program running beyond its mandated expiration in 2019. The legislation contains the alliance's wish list—the points

that the business community hopes to get acted upon by Congress.

"We have eight points that we wish to be addressed and

considered for the continuation of the expiring program," said Palacios.

■ The transition period should be amended to extend

but not beyond 2029.

■ Revert back the extension authority to the U.S. Secretary of Labor and amend the law to allow for extension increments of 10 years;

■ Add the U.S. Government Accountability Office review of transition's progress every five years for congressional review;

■ The prevailing wages requirements for CW-1 visa holders should be based on the CNMI economy. Right now, the CNMI relies on the prevailing wages rates of Hawaii and Guam;

■ To require employers to file for a temporary labor certification with the CNMI governor through the CNMI Department of Labor at least 40 days prior to the need for the worker's services and the bill should mandate the Department of Homeland Security to promulgate regulations to guide this, similar to how it is done in Guam;

■ To address the use of CW-1 visas for construction workers and increase the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services fee to \$200;

■ Equipping CNMI with a tool to monitor people with CW-1 visas so the NMI can effectively manage its CW-1 quota and the number of workers needed to run the economy.

■ For the CNMI to request more countries to be added to the approved list in the Guam-CNMI waiver program.

The alliance is set to meet

Spat boils down to 'he said, she said'

accepted her courtesy resignation on May 19.

Torres denied DeLeon Guerrero's claims and questioned the timing of her accusations.

In a statement, the Torres administration, said the allegations made by DeLeon Guerrero are "factually and blatantly inaccurate."

"Gold Mantis and the United States [U.S. Department of Labor] had already reached a settlement on the payment of workers and at that time CNMI [Labor] was the last component before allowing these workers to return home with payment," the administration said.

"The governor's primary interest throughout this issue has been and will continue to be for the contractors to pay these workers and for them to return to their home country."

The statement added that Torres' intention is the continuing collaboration between U.S. Labor and its local counterpart in working within the boundaries of federal laws to find solutions to the ongoing issue with the Chinese workers.



Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios speaks at yesterday's meeting at the Saipan World Resort.

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Abe Malae, American Samoa Power Authority executive director, offers comments at the dedication of the new Satala power plant in American Samoa's Pago Pago Harbor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A. Samoa power grid capacity lost in '09 tsunami is restored

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Louis Berger Power, in partnership with the American Samoa Power Authority, officially opened the new Satala power plant in American Samoa's Pago Pago Harbor.

The plant will replace a plant that was destroyed by a September 2009 tsunami after a powerful earthquake occurred off the coast of Tonga.

As part of the tsunami recovery effort, Louis Berger Power was hired by ASPA in 2013 to build a more efficient and resilient power plant that would have the capacity to power the entire Tutuila Island, the main island of American Samoa.

"The most important part of this project was our ability to provide reliable energy to our customers. Before, there was

See A. SAMOA on Next Page

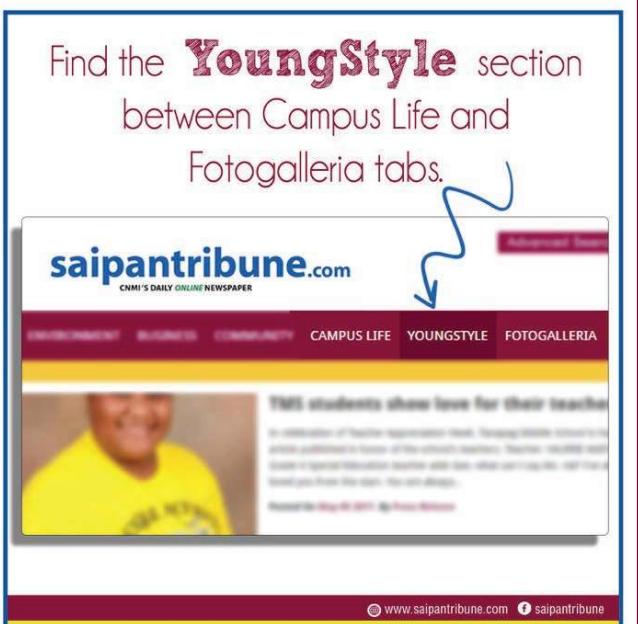
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Find the **YoungStyle** section
between Campus Life and
Fotogalleria tabs.



MVA closes down Manila office

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is closing down its representative office in Manila in order to support other markets that have regular flights to and from Saipan.

MVA, which is represented by contractor Aviareps Corp. in South Korea, Taiwan, Russia, and the Philippines, is closing down its Manila office due to Philippine Airlines' decision to switch from a year-round service to a seasonal service early this year.

"[MVA] believes our re-

sources are better served at other markets with a direct service. We would still be re-serving some funding from this budget to still support the seasonal flights from Manila," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

office in the future if PAL offers regular flights again, Concepcion replied, "We could easily do that."

"If there is a need in the future for us to reopen the office again, we would absolutely consider it," he added.

Concepcion added that the networks associated with the Philippines have already been established, making reopening the Manila office easy "to pick up."

The MVA Manila office was reopened in early 2016 when PAL was still offering regular flights between Saipan and Manila.



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230 govt employees may soon get lump sum payment

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A total of 230 employees may soon receive lump sum payments, with the House of Representatives looking to appropriate a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2017. The eligible employees are those who have been frozen on Step 12 that started during the government austerity measure of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial.

House Committee on Ways

and Means chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said they would wait if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would declare a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2017. "It is only fair that they [employees] get their compensation because it is mandated by Public Law 19-75."

The Office of Personnel Management and the CNMI Department of Finance identified the 230 employees based on the review they made with their respective

records, which was consolidated and checked to avoid names being entered twice.

"That is a list that we're depending on OPM to make the decision on because, obviously, the Legislature is not privy to personnel records. You have to be frozen at Step 12 for so many years. OPM needs to go back into that employees' personnel records and make sure that qualifications set by the law are met by that person," said Demapan.

He said those on the list

were inactive employees—which they found out were eligible for the lump-sum payment—that were either former personnel that are no longer in government or those who have already retired from public service.

"We've discovered that inactive employees are eligible based on the language of the law [PL 19-75], which says active and inactive. So the Committee asked OPM and Finance to come up with a list of inactive employees. To

date, OPM and Finance identified 230 employees," said Demapan.

Chapter 3, Section 302 (h) of PL 19-75 states that "the amount of \$1,451,365 shall be used to pay the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payment to active and inactive employees, whose wages were frozen at Step 12, pursuant to PL 10-76 and as amended by PL 11-59."

He added that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., formerly the Department of Public Health, also came up

with its own list of employees. "These are employees who were part of the former DPH. Now that list is being consolidated with OPM."

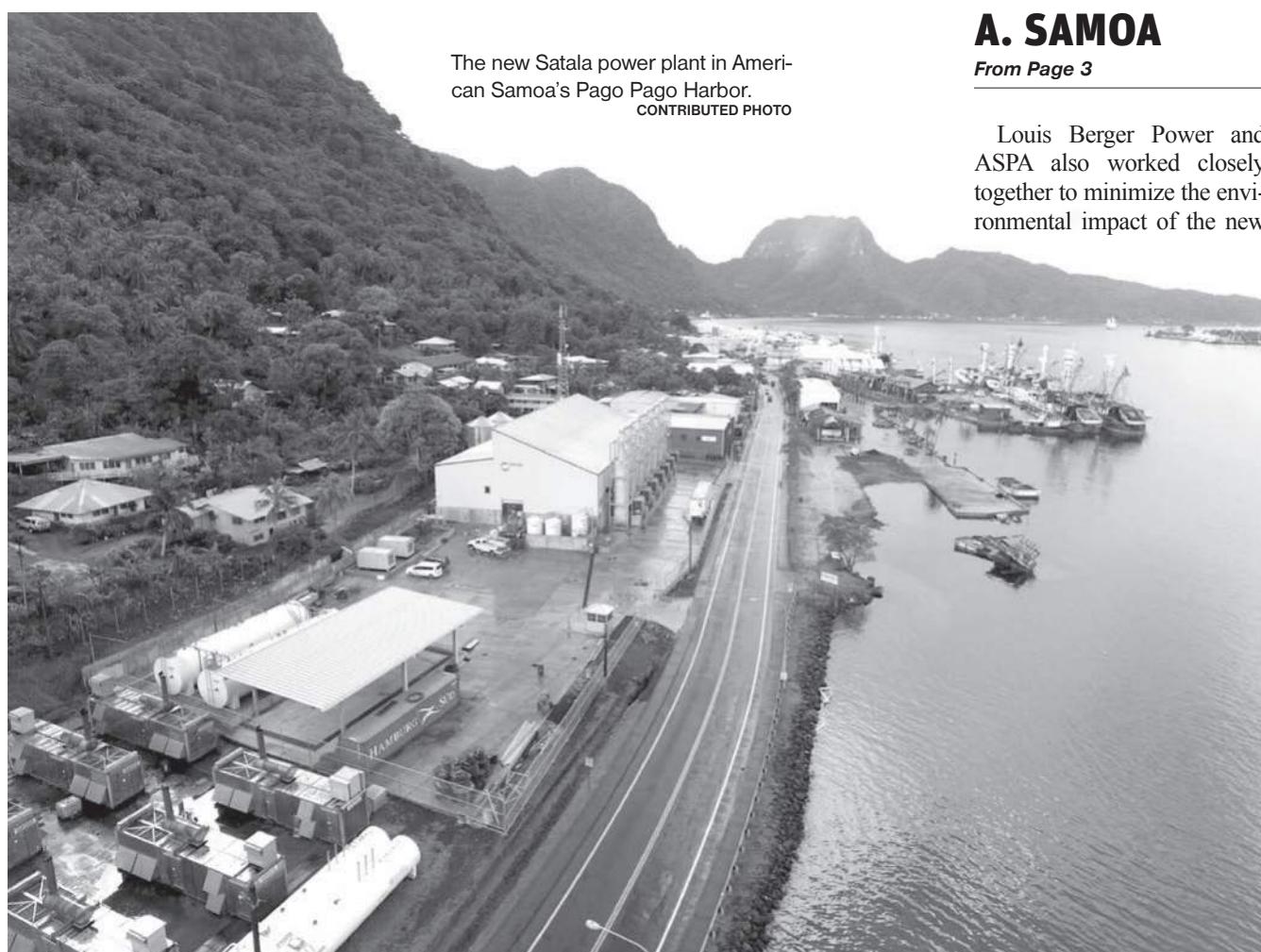
"The committee has asked OPM to do another review of the list to make sure the names provided by CHCC are eligible to meet the eligibility for the lump-sum payment so that they can be included when we work with another appropriation."

OPM has also found out that 41 active employees from the first batch on the list they gave to the Legislature have not been paid after the \$1.5 million that was appropriated was deemed not enough.

Demapan said the money they appropriated was based on the amount provided by OPM. The active employees on the list were frozen at Step 12. "From the first round of the list of active employees, 41 did not get paid because the \$1.5 million was exhausted.

"They [OPM] needed additional appropriation so that the 41 may get paid and for us to satisfy our obligation to them. At this point, our projection and based on OPM's last update we're looking at an additional \$1 million that would need to satisfy payments to the remaining recipients of PL 19-75."

He is hoping the government would be able to pay their obligation to all employees—active and inactive—that were frozen at Step 12. "These are during the austerity period and up to when the law was enacted. It depends on additional revenues."



The new Satala power plant in American Samoa's Pago Pago Harbor.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A. SAMOA

From Page 3

Louis Berger Power and ASPA also worked closely together to minimize the environmental impact of the new

plant. In addition to the low-emissions power generators, the site civil design incorporates all water runoff through two separate oil water separation systems before ocean discharge, while the building roof design includes a rainwater harvesting system.

"This plant will provide the American Samoan people with a more efficient and more resilient plant to power their future," said Frank Jordano, president, Louis Berger Power. "Not only will this plant withstand a future tsunami similar to the 2009 event, but it will potentially save millions of dollars per year in avoided fuel costs, which should ease the high cost of electricity while delivering more economic opportunity for the American Samoan people."

The challenge of resiliency and reliability was coupled with the overarching goal of keeping American Samoa on track to source 100 percent of its power from renewable energy sources by 2040, as other islands in the region aspire to accomplish.

HOMESTEAD

From Page 1

with DPW, but Teregeyo responded by comparing the average 400-square-meter lots in Chalan Kanoa. She said if the lots were smaller in Chalan Kanoa, "we are still good."

Teregeyo added that the homestead in As Gonno also has the capability for a sewer system, a good addition for those lucky enough to receive a lot and build a home there.

The homestead program provides land by raffle draw to people of Northern Marianas descent who have no village lots and no means of getting one.

The last raffle draw was in early March this year; 13 applicants attended the raffle draw and received lots in Kagman.

The next raffle draw, which has yet to be announced, will focus on applicants who have been on the wait list since 1991 and 1992.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

Carmel High School's Jacqueline Doctor, Saipan International School's Kaiyeesha Tambakau, and Marianas High School's Johoret Diaz and Robert Jomar Malate.

Doctor will go to Oxford College of Emory University to take up liberal arts for two years before moving to Oxford University to take up Biology.

Tambakau is set to enroll

at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and will take up performing arts and film.

Diaz will go to school at South Seattle College to take up a degree in dental hygiene, while Malate will go to Harvard University to take up mechanical engineering.

The college awardee is Carl Joshua Pagcaliagan, a student at Northern Marianas College taking up liberal arts, while the vocational awardee is Earl John Bordon, who graduated last

year from MHS. He is set to go to Le Cordon Bleu in London to take up Baking & Pastry with Culinary Management. He plans to put up a bakery on Saipan someday.

"My favorite part of the scholarship application was the essay because, compared to your résumé which is kind of static and fixed, your essay shows who you really are and what you want to express. My essay was about how my passion for engineering started and my

dreams for engineering here in the CNMI," said Malate.

Every year, the Chamber gives out scholarship to deserving students. The awardees are given \$2,000 each to fund a portion of their education.

"We are happy with the turnout of the scholarship application this year and the awarding of the six deserving students. This is all possible because of the support of our members, fundraising events, and generous contributions," Palacios added.

BIRTH

From Page 1

tional parole expired, so she won't be detected by immigration authorities.

Dotts said the Chinese woman got Peng's phone number from another woman, who saw ads that Peng had posted on some Chinese website about the farm.

The Chinese woman called Peng after she arrived on the

island with her boyfriend in November 2014.

After visiting the farm, the woman decided not to stay there. Her boyfriend asked Peng if she could stay instead at Peng's residence. Dotts said Peng agreed and received RMB 50,000 from the Chinese woman.

Peng paid 20 percent of the money to the other woman who had given Peng's phone number to the Chinese woman. The defendant also

paid \$1,000 to his former business partner.

The Chinese woman's immigration status expired in November 2014 and she stayed at Peng's house until February 2015.

Dotts said that in February 2015, Peng asked the woman to move out because she had been disrespectful to Peng's family. At that point, Dotts said, the Chinese woman reported to authorities and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services what

had been going on.

Dotts said his client had no criminal record before this case.

The lawyer said Peng previously ran or tried to run a wedding photography business in China, a furniture selling business in Los Angeles and then in China.

Dotts said after he came to Saipan, Peng ran a wedding photography business on the island.

Dotts said at the time of his

offense, the defendant was operating a successful beef noodle restaurant with his former business partner.

In fact, Dotts said, Peng is currently planning to open his own restaurant on the island.

The lawyer said the defendant has no inclination to violate the law and has tried very hard to make a living legitimately by starting his own business.

Dotts said the idea to house the Chinese woman did not

originate from Peng, and he has accepted responsibility for his offense.

Dotts said there is no evidence that Peng ever actively made his residence available specifically for housing the Chinese woman or any other pregnant Chinese women.

The lawyer said Peng has accepted responsibility for his offense, and helped identify his former business partner for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The female owner of a beauty parlor was arrested on Tuesday night in As Lito for allegedly beating up a man and vandalizing his store in San Antonio, apparently over their parking space squabble.

Wen Jie Luo, 45, was arrested for assault and battery, assault, criminal mischief,

Woman allegedly beats up man in parking squabble

disturbing the peace, resisting arrest, and obstructing justice. Her bail was set at \$5,000 cash.

At a hearing yesterday, assistant attorney general Heather Barcina, counsel for the government, said their concern is that Luo used

the back door of her beauty parlor to avoid being arrested.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, however, reduced the bail to \$2,500 at the request of defense attorney Colin Thompson.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 15 at 9am.

The Department of Public Safety sent an officer to the TOHA Supermarket in San Antonio last May 29 at 10:51am to check on an assault and battery complaint.

The victim alleged that Luo slapped him in the face when he parked his car in front of the stairs leading to Luo's Angel Beauty Salon on the second floor.

TOHA Supermarket is located on the ground floor of the building.

The victim told police he was inside his car when Luo parked her car next to his. Luo

then opened her car's door, hitting the victim's car. When the victim confronted her for hitting his car, Luo denied it and instead asked him why he was parking in her parking space.

The victim pointed out that there's no sign in the parking space that it belongs to Luo. The victim then called the building owner on the phone and was told that the parking lot is open to anyone.

The victim said he was calling the police on his phone when Luo allegedly started punching and kicking him. She also slapped his face with her slipper. Even after the officer ar-

rived at the scene, Luo allegedly threatened to kill the victim.

The following day, May 30, at 1:50pm, the victim told police that his store's signboard had been vandalized. A witness allegedly saw Luo ripping the store's electrical cord.

That night of May 30, the victim called the police again after Luo allegedly yelled at him and his two employees while they were in the parking lot.

When police responded and told Luo that she would be arrested, she called her husband, a former police officer, and left the place through her shop's back door. (Ferdie de la Torre)

OAG request to OK testimony via Skype is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Due to the slow internet speed at the Rota courthouse, a government request to allow testimony via Skype has been denied.

In an order on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said the government and Melvin Maratita Manglona should plan to have their witnesses testify in person on Rota.

Manglona, a former Rota police officer, has an upcoming jury trial on charges of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl.

Camacho declined to allow Skype testimony in the case.

"The technology available at the Rota courthouse makes Skype testimony unreliable at best, and the court is concerned that the case would not be able to proceed due to the technological difficulties unique to the Rota courthouse," the judge said.

Camacho noted that although Manglona does not object to taking testimony via Skype, and had indicated an interest in questioning his witnesses via

Skype, the issue is whether the Rota courthouse is equipped to allow uninterrupted, clear, and continuous testimony via Skype during a jury trial.

The jury trial of the 49-year-old Manglona will be held on Rota on June 26, 2017. The Office of the Attorney General had charged him with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio filed on Tuesday the motion to permit testimony via Skype, including an expert witness located on Guam. Defense counsel Brien Sers Nicholas did not oppose.

At the pre-trial conference on Tuesday, one of the court's information technology personnel, John Demapan, had said the available technology and internet speed at the Rota courthouse would make taking testimony via Skype unreliable.

In denying the motion, Camacho said with unreliable Skype at the Rota courthouse, the jury will be waiting while the attorneys iron out the technical issues with Skype freez-

LibDay festivities cut to 11 days

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The 2017 Liberation Day festivities will be shortened further to a total of just 11 days and will strictly feature local and family-owned businesses.

For several years, annual Liberation Day festivities lasted a month. This year, the newly created Liberation Day committee decided to cut the festivities to just 15 days. It was recently confirmed that the festivities will be shortened again to a total of just 11 days.

This time, the parade would start at 4:30pm.

The Liberation Day committee believes this is most convenient so that the community will be able to enjoy the parade when it's cooler. This will immediately segue to the fireworks.

Despite the shortened time, the committee promises many activities in two weeks. The festival will offer family nights, a dance festival, coconut relays, a chefs booth, and many more family bonding opportunities.

This year, the 2017 Liberation Day royal court have eight candidates: Mikeangela Charfauros, Mikaela Dahil, Chloe Fegurgur, Peyton Gomez, Kaila de Guzman, Maxine Lopez, Riannalyn Manabat, and Carlicia Ruben.

Application forms for the parade floats, vendors, gaming booths, and float competitions are ready for pickup at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

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RED CROSS TRAINING

The American Red Cross Disaster Action team members were recently recertified on the use of automated external defibrillators and administering first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Larry Lee and Teresa from Western Pacific Training Solutions, LLC, an American Red Cross-authorized license training provider, led the classes on June 3, 2017. The Red Cross Disaster Action Team is led by volunteers that are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide emergency assistance to clients affected by disasters. For more information on how to become a volunteer, contact the local chapter office at 234-3459 or visit our website at www.redcross.org/nmi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo returns from Asia-Pacific trip

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) returned yesterday from a congressional delegation trip to Alaska, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, and Hawaii. The trip, led by House Armed Services Committee chair Mac Thornberry, met with key government officials and military leaders to discuss the U.S. regional posture, military-to-military cooperation, and ongoing challenges in the region, including North Korea and disputes in the South China Sea, as well as broader areas of cooperation such as maritime security, counter-terrorism efforts, trade, and climate change. The delegation also participated in the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Shangri-La Dialogue: The Asia Security Summit.

During the trip, Bordallo stressed the importance of the

Garapan Fishing Base set to break ground for paving

In conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced yesterday a plan to pave the Garapan Fishing Base parking space for boat trailers.

There will be a ground-breaking ceremony for the paving on Friday, June 9, by the Garapan Public Market at 2pm.

According to Torres, the Garapan Fishing Base has started to see an increase of traffic in the area over the years due to the increasing popularity of fishing derbies and other major public events and festivals.

"This project will not only improve public access to the boat ramp, but will also enhance traffic flow and safety while also increasing the beautification for those who frequent the Garapan Fishing Base grounds and adjacent properties," Torres said, extending his appreciation to the departments for pushing this project forward.

The Department of Public Works noted that the engineering site plan for the proposed Garapan Fish Base paving project began in the mid-part of last year.

"The proposed improvements will include the paving of a parking area adjacent to the coast and access roads, the establishment of two ponding basins/rain gardens, curbs and drain swales to direct stormwater run-

off to ponding basins/rain gardens, and landscaping. There will be a temporary silt fence so as not to affect the existing catchment basin and drainpipe to the sea by the proposed project. This project will definitely support fisheries and the tourist district," Public Works Secretary James Ada said.

Acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Anthony T. Benavente added that the notice to proceed is effective on June 7 and has been issued to Hawaiian Rock Products to resume work at the project site.

"Our fishing base and coastal areas are bountiful resources for recreation and sustenance. While ensuring resource protection, we are providing facilities and opportunities to better serve our community. I sincerely thank Governor Torres, the Department of Public Works, and the late Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman for their foresight to invest in our lands and natural resources," Benavente said.

The DLNR advises the public that the project will not interfere with ongoing activities in the area but to be extra cautious when visiting the Garapan Fishing Base at the time of the construction.

For more details on the project, contact DLNR at 322-9834 or e-mail Gus Kaipat atkaipat.dlnr@gmail.com. (PR)

United States maintaining a forward posture in the region to deter and swiftly respond to contingencies in the region. She stressed that the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam was critical to maintaining this forward presence. Bordallo discussed these issues with Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis in Singapore, who reiterated the DoD's continued commitment to the Guam realignment, as well as with U.S. Pacific Command commander, Adm. Harry Harris.

In addition to Bordallo and Thornberry, the delegation also included Reps. Bradley Byrne of Alabama, Austin Scott of Georgia, Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin, Seth Moulton of Massachusetts, Stephanie Murphy of Florida, and Salud Carbajal of California.

"The Asia-Pacific region continues to play an increasingly important role in U.S. national security and economic policy. Our delegation was able to gain firsthand insight into the challenges and partnerships, and to reaffirm our commitment to the region. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Shangri-La Dialogue, which brought together government officials, military leaders, and subject matter experts to discuss the ongoing security issues in Asia and the Pacific. During each visit, I was able to impress Guam's critical role in regional security issues and highlight the advantages of having a strong U.S. military presence on our island. I thank [Thornberry] for leading this bi-partisan [congressional delegation]. I look forward to continue working with him and my HASC colleagues to promote our needs on Guam and the broader Asia-Pacific region." (PR)

SAIPAN BREWING CO.

Going back to one's roots and passion

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

Steve Sablan and Jay Wolfe were brought together by a shared affinity for beer. In particular, the two have a shared love for craft beer.

Sablan, who was born on Saipan but whose family had migrated to California, returned to Saipan two years ago with the idea of starting a microbrewery.

Wolfe came to Saipan at the prodding of a friend and fell in love with the place. Through friends, he heard about Sablan who was getting known for his home brews.

That started what would later become Saipan Brewing Co.

"I've always had Saipan on my mind, coming back and making a difference," Sablan said, who now manages the new company.

In Sablan's case, he discovered his passion for microbrewery in California. His love for beer led him to craft beers.

"I had my first taste and I was hooked. I then went around trying out different tastes. With craft beers, it is just not about drinking beer, it is all about matching the

flavors and taste."

"I went back to Saipan two years ago because of family and the possibility of starting a brewery. My original plan was to start a small one but when I met Jay, the prospects became bigger."

At that time, Wolfe was making his own beer at his home on Saipan. It was through friends that he heard about Sablan, and he decided to look for him to share the hobby.

"We were brought together by beer. Because of our shared passion, we teamed up and started brewing together. We started brewing so much beer that friends loved it to a point that we had more than enough for ourselves. Eighteen months ago, we decided to do it professionally," Wolfe said.

Wolfe is now business manager and brewer of Saipan Brewing Co. and, together with Sablan, they have been making a name for themselves and putting Saipan on the map, not only as a tourist destination but also one with the best local beer.

"Our relationship transitioned from being hobbyists to being business partners. There's a lot of growth hap-

pening on island and we are currently understanding the demand of our market. We want to be known by people who live and come here," Sablan said.

Saipan Brewing's flagship beers are the Sirena Blonde, their lightest beer; Pau Pau Ale, a step up in flavor from



Steve Sablan, left, and Jay Wolfe are the men behind Saipan Brewing Co. They encourage people to drink beer made here on Saipan and are hoping to put Saipan on the map for its beer.

the Blonde; and Hafa Adai IPA, their most aggressive because of its rich flavor and its very pronounced hops.

"We recently introduced fruit beers made from local ingredients: pineapple, toasted coconut, mango and banana," said Sablan. "We use local ingredients to highlight the flavors of Saipan. We use all the resources available on the island."

Saipan Brewing is planning to join international beer competitions and attending beer conferences to improve their products.

"We say 'drink beer made here.' We want Saipan to be

proud of their local businesses and believe in the fact that you can produce things on Saipan that can go off island and other people can be interested," said Wolfe. "Entrepreneurship is getting serious on island. People are giving local companies a chance."

Sablan has found his way back to Saipan and believes he is home. "I am back home and living out my passion. I don't have plans of going back to the mainland except to visit family. I believe in growing where you are rooted. We plan to keep making our company grow and stay dedicated to our customers."



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SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

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MVA partners with TripAdvisor to promote NMI

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority got the go-signal Tuesday to work with TripAdvisor, a popular travel website company that provides reviews on destinations, accommodation, restaurants, and other aspects

of travelling.

The board has approved the MVA management's request to expand its online presence by working with TripAdvisor.

MVA members, which include several business entities in the tourism industry such as hotels, restaurants, and others,

will undergo a workshop to educate the members on how to handle their online reputation through TripAdvisor.

"We are very happy to bring them to the CNMI because [TripAdvisor] has a huge network," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, adding that MVA has allocated

\$200,000 for the workshop.

"We want to train the tourism industry here and how they manage their online presence," he said.

Concepcion believes that hotels and restaurants in the CNMI could compete at a "world-class level, where you attract people through market-

ing while managing your online reputation and content."

The TripAdvisor workshop would also educate the members on how to tackle problems brought up by their guests.

"It makes them want to fix the problem. We need that here in the CNMI because we need everybody to improve their product," Concepcion said.

According to him, the workshop is the start of a nine-month partnership with TripAdvisor, who would be advertising the CNMI online through its website. Funding for this is included in the \$200,000 that MVA has allocated.

Though the date of the workshop has yet to be finalized, Concepcion said he plans to hold the workshop around August or September this year.

Also included in TripAdvisor's services is a guest's ability to rate a destination, a feature of TripAdvisor that provides a "great image for the CNMI."

"This also provides good incentive for businesses to get on board and learn how to manage their online presence so they can continue to improve their product," he said, adding that about seven to eight hotels under the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands are actively monitoring their ratings and feedback.



IMPERIAL PACIFIC
One of the activities Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility group did was to host the Fun Run Walk and Roll on May 27 at the Filcom Pavilion. The Maternal Childhood Bureau of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. held the clinic in celebration of Women's Health Month in May.



IMPERIAL PACIFIC
Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility division provided a booth for children at the Fun Run Walk and Roll on May 27 at the Filcom Pavilion.

WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH

Imperial Pacific International-Corporate Social Responsibility staff, along with members of the organizing group, man the registration area of the Mobile Health Clinic on May 13 at the Marianas Business Plaza. IPI assisted with the registration of participants. The Maternal Childhood Bureau of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. held the clinic in celebration of Women's Health Month in May. IMPERIAL PACIFIC

NMI joins Pacific nations in addressing climate change

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI and other Pacific Island nations remain committed to the issue of climate change despite the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate change agreement, more popularly known as the Paris accord.

The accord requires countries to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions. On Thursday last week, President Donald Trump withdrew the country from the accord.

Torres said the U.S. decision means differently for state and territorial governments.

"It does not mean that state and territorial governments cannot continue to pursue avenues to address issues related

to climate change," said Torres.

He pointed out that the CNMI hosting the Pacific Islands Environment Conference is a testament the Commonwealth's dedication and seriousness in addressing global warming and the rising sea levels. The PIEC will be held from June 13 to 15 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

"The upcoming PIEC conference is but one notable example of the effort the Pacific islands are doing to enhance regional collaboration on this issue," said Torres.

He added that his administration is proud of the work done by the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality and the climate change staff in addressing the issue.

not incur any public debt without the Legislature's approval. CUC consultant Harris Group earlier estimated that the privatization of power would cost some \$364 million over 20 years.

June 8, 2008

Increased demand for US passports seen

The Honolulu Passport Agency has urged U.S. nationals and citizens hoping to travel abroad next year to apply for passports now. Nancy K. Finn, regional director of the Passport Agency, said the amount of time required to obtain a passport is expected to increase significantly. The U.S. Department of State expects to issue over 21 million passports in 2008 and 30 million in 2009. Currently, she said, passport processing times are less than four weeks for routine applications and less than two weeks for expedited applications. Travelers who choose to apply now can avoid having to pay the \$60 fee for expedited processing.

'CUC just doing full cost recovery'

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said that, except for the Fitial administration, no other administration had the courage to actually implement 100 percent cost recovery for utilities. Referring to the newly increased electric rates, Muna said the Fitial administration is focused on fully resolving CUC's problems and is the first one to go with full. He said the overhaul of power engines could have been done before if past administrations implemented the full cost recovery rates. "It has to be done now," Muna stressed. The executive director said CUC has been neglected for the past four to five years.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 8, 2000

Senate may widen scope of telecom bill

A bill passed by the House of Representatives seeking creation of a regulatory body for telecommunication firms on the islands will go through closer review in the upper house before it is sent to the floor for voting. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, chair of the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said he would seek comments again from private companies and the public as part of its deliberation on the legislation. He disclosed that the committee may incorporate a pending Senate bill on a proposed commission regulating entire utilities services in the Commonwealth. HB 12-6, otherwise known as the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act, seeks to establish a five-man commission that will regulate the sector in the CNMI in an effort to lure other potential investors here.

Abolition of DOF unconstitutional

Legislation seeking to abolish the Department of Finance is unconstitutional, according to the Attorney General's Office. Transferring the powers and duties of the department to a statutory created Department of Administration as proposed under SB 12-53 must only be carried out through an amendment of

the CNMI Constitution. Commenting on the Senate proposal, Assistant Attorney General Elliot A. Sattler said the abolition of DOF, which was created by the Constitution, must be ratified by the public through a legislative or popular initiative. The House panel is currently reviewing SB 12-53 before drawing up a report for consideration by the full body.

June 8, 2005

\$50M budget for PSS backed

As requested, House members are pushing for a \$50-million budget for the Public School System in Fiscal Year 2006. Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, chair of the House Education Committee, said yesterday that he supports the introduction of a separate PSS budget bill that grants it a total of \$50 million for the next fiscal year. The PSS currently receives \$37.2 million a year. Quitugua said that based on the draft bill, PSS would spend \$40 million for personnel and \$10 million for operations. Quitugua said he favors giving the PSS "some flexibility" when it comes to operating funds. The administration said that existing resources would only generate \$206 million in view of the projected decline in revenue from the garment sector.

House wants in on power privatization program

Hinting of secret negotiations that could take place on power privatization, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial asked CUC if the awarding of a contract to an independent power producer would result in any potential financial liability or debt for the government. At the same time, Fitial expressed interest in the Legislature being involved in the ongoing efforts to privatize power. He reiterated that the CUC, under the Constitution, can-

Suspected 'ice' supplier pleads not guilty

A suspected distributor of methamphetamine who allegedly sold 100 grams of "ice" has entered a not guilty plea in Superior Court.

Biyu Hu, 35, a female but known as Brother, pleaded not guilty on Monday to the amended information charging her with four counts of drug trafficking and four counts of illegal possession.

Public schools to offer summer food service

The Public School System and the Summer Food Service Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have launched a Summer Food Service that is going to run from June 5 to July 14, 2017.

The Summer Food Service is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by PSS. It will provide free lunches to children and teens (18 years old and younger) in public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Saipan locations are Tanapag Middle School, Garapan Elementary School,

Oleai Elementary School, Kagman High School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Koblerville Elementary School.

The Tinian location will be at the Tinian Junior Senior High School.

The Rota locations will be at the Sinapalo Elementary School and Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School.

No registration is required. Each child is entitled one lunch per day.

Lunch is served at the locations from 11:30am to 12pm. For details call 664-3901 or 664-3902. (*Saipan Tribune*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2017 Pistang Pinoy this Sunday

In celebration of the 119th Philippine Independence Day, the United Filipino Organization, in collaboration with the office of Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI, will be hosting the Independence Day festival, *Pistang Pinoy*, on Sunday, June 11, starting from 7pm to 10pm, at the Marianas Business Plaza. The festivities will include live entertainment, game contests, a Pinoy photo gallery, a bounce house for the children, a boodle fight-eating area, and more. There will be a raffle drawing on the night of the festival, with the grand prize winner getting a roundtrip ticket to the Philippines. Food vendors will also be present at the festival. There will also be vendors for novelty items. The highlight of the night will be the awarding of "Batang Pinoy, Batang Saipan." During this segment of the festival, 14 young achievers will be recognized and awarded.

Comments sought on marine monument

The U.S. Department of the Interior secretary has been tasked by President Donald Trump under Executive Order 13792, issued on April 25, 2017, to conduct a review of national monuments. Public comments are being sought regarding the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Deadline for comments is due July 10, 2017. To submit online comments, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/11/2017-09490/review-of-certain-national-monuments-established-since-1996-notice-of-opportunity-for-public-comment>. Click on the "Submit a Formal Comment" green box on the right column. (*PR*)

Free business seminar

The Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar about business structures at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, at from 8:30am to 9:30am. It will be presented by Gregory J. Koebel, a partner of the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes law firm. This seminar is supported by the CNMI Department of Commerce and CDA. To register, contact the SBDC office at (670) 664-3018 or visit <http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events>. (*PR*)

Cancer survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. support meeting today, June 8, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Giovanni's Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (*PR*)

Air Force training at FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 8, from 7:30am to noon
- June 9, from 9:30am to 1:30pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (*PR*)

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference for Aug. 8 at 9am.

Assistant public defender

Nancy Dominski served as counsel for Hu.

Hu was arrested in Dandan in May for allegedly sell-

ing 100 grams of "ice" worth \$40,000 to \$50,000 during "buy-walk operations" on Saipan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

29th Annual Environment Conference set for June 13

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbaustista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

An upcoming environmental conference on Saipan, the 29th Annual Pacific Islands Environment Conference, will focus on sustainable living and how to battle different climate challenges.

This will be a three-day conference that will focus on ways that the community of the Northern Marianas could

sustain life on the islands much longer.

The conference's keynote speakers specialize in each of the three main topics: climate change and island resilience, sustainable development, and connections between public health and the environment.

They will share their experiences with climate change, ways to sustain development while protecting the environment, and how to manage

risks to public health.

The conference will last from June 13 to 16. Each conference day will begin at 8am and end at 4:30pm. Different speakers will be showcased each day; there will be open forum discussions with panelists from the Commonwealth, Palau, Marshall Islands, Guam, Samoa, Pohnpei, and Yap.

According to Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality's



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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Cutting off Qatar: Sunni Arab states make a puzzling move

Two weeks ago, President Donald Trump signed the United States on with the Sunni Muslim states of the Persian Gulf in a meeting with their leaders in Saudi Arabia during his recent overseas tour. Monday morning, six of the states in the region broke off relations with Qatar, easily the most progressive of the Arab members of the group.

Bahrain, Egypt, one of the governments in Libya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the faction in the Yemen civil war backed by Saudi Arabia and the U.S. broke diplomatic relations with the Qatar emirate Monday. Their beefs are basically what make it the most reasonable of the Persian Gulf mini-states in terms of policy.

Qatar created and funds the news network Al Jazeera, which began broadcasting in 1996. Al Jazeera is noted for its aggressive reporting, including on developments in Israel and its neighbors, exactly what makes the rulers of the Gulf and other states, including Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, not like it. Qatar has developed a sometimes cooperative relationship with Shi'ite Iran, including in natural gas fields, the chief source of Qatar's income. In 1997, Qatar launched Education City, where several U.S. universities operate.

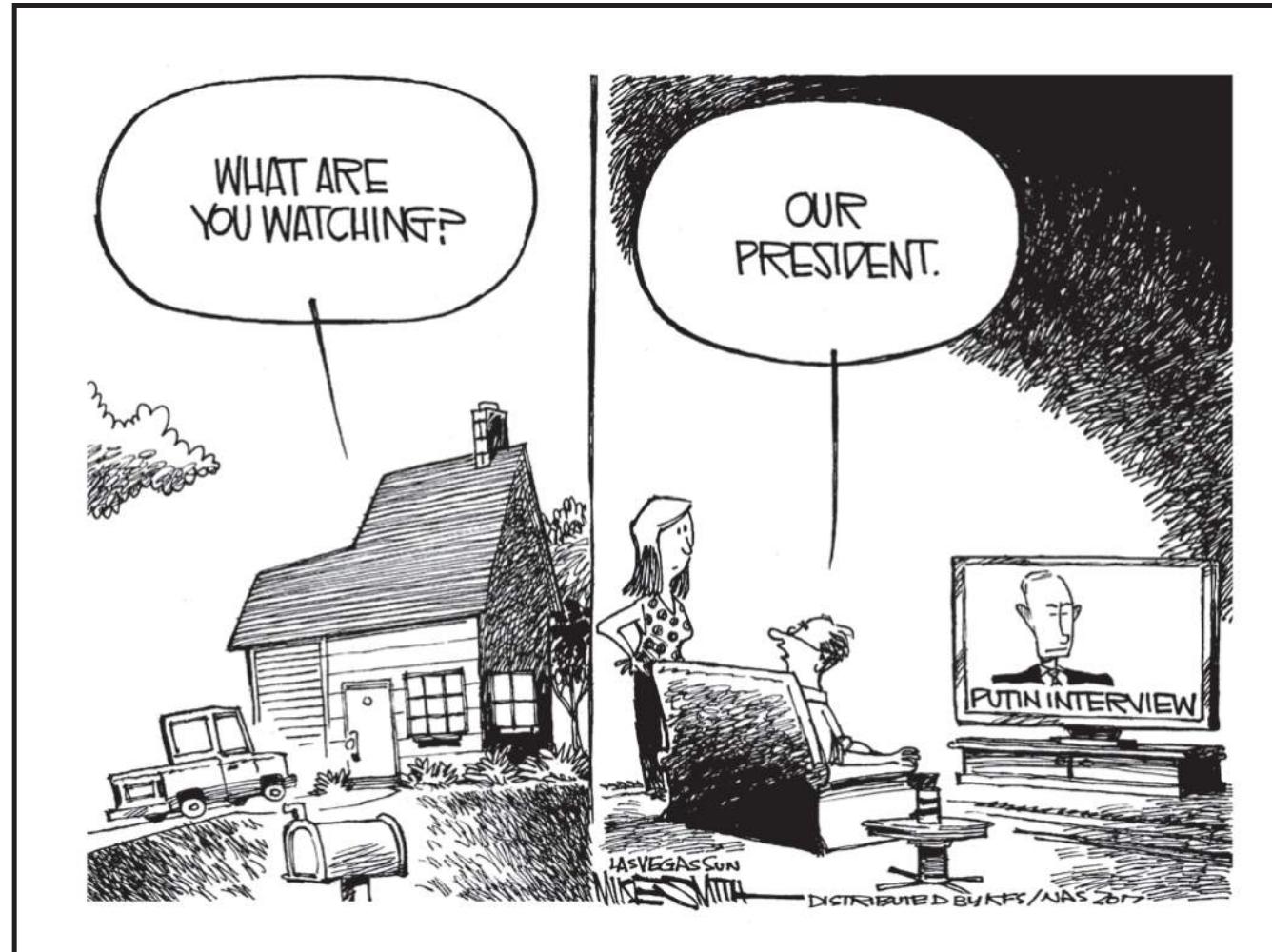
The other states also accuse it of supporting or taking a sometimes overly tolerant approach to the Islamic State, al-Qaida and the Muslim Brotherhood, feared by most of the crowned heads of the region. That will also be the basis for the anti-Qatar states' hope of U.S. support of their crackdown.

The problem for the United States in their effort to put pressure on and isolate Qatar is the close U.S. military relations that exist. It hosts the largest air base used by the United States in the region, and there are an estimated 10,000 U.S. troops stationed there at any given time. America, in principle at least, is also in favor of the approach of Qatar to freedom of the press and its efforts to bridge the gaps between competing Middle Eastern and other groups. Qatar, for example, has hosted rival Afghan groups, including the Taliban, in their efforts to negotiate an end to the 16-year-old war there.

The split between Qatar and the other six states is also destructive of what is supposed to be a joint effort to combat the Islamic State. It was supposed to have been moved forward by Trump's meeting with the Sunni leaders in Riyadh in May.

What the six opponents are seeking is a radical change of direction in Qatari policy in their areas of interest. There is even the threat of a Saudi invasion to overthrow its emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, or Saudi support of a coup d'état against the Doha government. They should receive no U.S. approval of or support in such an enterprise. It is hard not to connect the Riyadh meeting with Monday's action by the six

See CUTTING on Next Page



The racists aren't listening

It's time people stopped waiting for a conversation about race in America. We are not a country that likes to talk things out.

What would that conversation look like anyway? Would African-Americans get to sit in a circle and lash out at white people about all the injustices they have inflicted on us, beginning with slavery? Would white people then see the error of their ways and fall on their knees to ask for forgiveness? And when the conversation is over, would we all leave the room and live harmoniously ever after?

No. That's never going to happen.

I commend LeBron James for speaking out about racism after someone spray painted the N-word on the gate leading to his mansion. The Cleveland Cavaliers superstar reminded us that it's tough being black in America and that no matter how successful blacks become, they are never able to shed the cloak of their race.

It was a powerful statement but, in effect, he was preaching to the choir.

There is not a black person in America who doesn't know that the odds are stacked against us. And the white people who agreed with James already know it too. The people who would benefit most from this revelation are the ones who don't give a damn.

So where does that leave us? Exactly where we started.

I'm not saying that we should stop discussing race altogether or that we shouldn't shine a spotlight on malicious acts of racial intolerance. Of course, it's unacceptable when someone leaves a noose at the National Museum of African American History and Culture or defaces someone's home with racial epithets.

And anyone who commits a race-related crime should be prosecuted. We must have no tolerance for incidents such as the one that occurred recently on a train in Portland, where a suspect fatally slashed two men and injured another who came to the aid of two young women being attacked with racial slurs.

Such instances are symptoms of a deeply rooted problem in America called racism. This is not a word I use freely. It's a much too serious infliction to toss around every time something unfair or unpleasant happens to a black person.

Racism is cunning and pervasive, a sickness that can take on many forms and spread quickly if not put in check. It also is an illness that cannot be cured unless the sufferer chooses to be healed.

There is evidence that racism has peaked since the election of President Donald Trump. Perhaps some Americans have just become more aware of it. Whatever the case, it's useless for blacks to keep harping on how painful it is. The racists aren't listening.

By DAHLEEN GLANTON

Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may email her at dglanton@chicagotribune.com.



Inflicting pain is exactly what they intended. Once we succumb to it, the racists have achieved their goal.

As for myself, I choose not to surrender to defeat. I don't spend my energy lamenting the hurt of being called the N-word or any of the countless derogatory terms people spew at me whenever my column appears. I allow their words to flow off my back like the spray of water from a shower.

Words and graffiti, you see, are not our biggest issues. There are greater aspects of racism that deserve our full attention.

Like the soaring rate of black unemployment in America, at 8.1 percent by the end of 2016, almost twice the rate for whites.

Judicial racism allows for sentencing disparities that land too many young black males in jail for minor drug violations. And when they come out and apply for jobs, they are denied because of their criminal records.

Educational racism allows failing schools to become a staple of low-income black communities, churning out poorly trained students who are ill prepared for life, much less the workforce.

Housing racism allowed cities to restrict minorities to certain parts of the city for decades, forbidding them from renting and buying homes in more stable communities. And racism is what continues to support that system of segregation, clustering crime and poverty in the most neglected neighborhoods.

Racism is what allows some people to pretend that racism doesn't even exist. It is what convinces them that so many black people are jobless and poor because they are lazy. It is what allows some people to close their eyes to the systemic inequities in our country that sentence the most disadvantaged to failure while the most fortunate flourish.

If you are not African-American, I ask of you one thing: Do not pity me because I am.

Yes, it's tough being black in America. But we are strong and defiant people — because we've always had to be.

We will never stop fighting racism. And you are welcome to join us if you like.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Non-FDA approved medication and gout

By JONATHAN MUNA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A family member recently asked me about this new herbal supplement, which I had never heard of, that supposedly stops gout attacks in an instant. Since I have never heard of it, I decided to look it up on reliable sources such as PubMed, Lexi-Comp, UpToDate, and Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database and found nothing. It turns out that this supplement is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This article will discuss background information on gout, FDA approved medication options, and the non-FDA approved drug in question that you can discuss with your healthcare provider and pharmacist.

In patients with gout, we see an overproduction or under-

excretion of a chemical called uric acid. Clinical presentation of gout in the early stages typically feature an acute inflammation of any joint (typically the big toe) such as ankles, heels, knees, wrists, fingers, and elbows. Later stages feature an increase in uric acid resulting in flares, more than one joint being affected, tophi (due to crystal deposits), kidney stones, and renal failure.

To treat an acute attack, the current guidelines from the American College of Rheumatology suggest both non-medication and medication options that acutely treat pain and decrease inflammation (do not target pathophysiology). If you do not have access to the recommended medications and the pain is very mild, you can apply an ice pack on the affected area. For mild/moderate acute gout attacks, monotherapy is recommended with NSAIDs (indomethacin, naproxen, and sulindac are FDA-approved to treat acute gout), colchicine, and corticosteroids (prednisone and methylprednisolone are typically used).

To prevent recurrent attacks, typically in those who experience more than two gout attacks per year, urate-lowering therapy is recommended. ULT medications include allopurinol, febuxostat, or probenecid (if you cannot take febuxostat or allopurinol), which help decrease the amount of uric acid in your body.

The non-FDA approved drug supplement in question claims on the packaging that it is an herbal supplement that "soothes achy joint, relieves pain, longevity joint strength, and liver detoxification." One website that sells the product claims that it "cures high uric acid, arthritis, and gout." According to the FDA, a product sold as a dietary supplement (herbal products are considered dietary supplements per FDA) and promoted on its label or labeling as a "treatment, prevention or cure for a specific disease or condition would be considered an unapproved—and therefore illegal—drug." In 2015, even the Philippines FDA issued a warning against using it, as it posed "potential danger or injury." In addition, the ingredients are not listed on its packaging box nor on any website so we do not even know what are the contents in each capsule but can only assume that it is not 100 percent

herbal, as many supplements contain prescription medications not mentioned on their labels.

Gout is a condition due to overproduction or under excretion of uric acid. The approved therapy for acute gout attacks can be treated with NSAIDs, colchicine, and corticosteroids. For those that experience more than two attacks per year, there are medications that target the pathophysiology of gout. Due to the non-FDA approved medication's time of onset almost being immediate in treating an acute gout attack, many have vouched for it and tell their family and friends about it. However, this herbal supplement is not approved in treating gout, with its claims even being illegal per the FDA. Before starting any new medication or supplement, seek medical advice from your healthcare provider or pharmacist to ensure that your treatment is both safe and effective.

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Jonathan Muna, PharmD, was raised on Saipan and is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, who received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2017. His interests include infectious disease and ambulatory care.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A crime in plain view

Although most people have a smartphone and a service plan (and I am one of them), many people still use cell phones that take prepaid "load" cards. These cards are usually in denominations of \$5, \$10, or \$20. You scratch off a strip on the back, call the company and enter the code. Then you're good to go—for 30 days. Then the phone company will get whatever's left.

Yes, some of the cards have a little disclaimer on the back—that the money you put in is only good for 30 days. After that, your money is gone because it's been swiped.

But wait. This is your money, not theirs. If you put money in the bank, it stays there forever, unless you take it out. It should be the same with the phone cards. So if you put 10 bucks into your phone, it should remain there until you use it up, whether it's one month or one year.

I called up a customer service person at one of the local phone companies and we had a pleasant conversation. He said that I was the first person to ever complain about the cards, but I am a New Yorker and you can't get anything from me without my noticing.

In my view, what the phone companies are doing is outright theft. Therefore they should change the little disclaimer on the back of the card, "If you don't use the full value of the card within 30 days, we will get whatever is left."

I can't believe I am the first (and perhaps only) person to spot this. It's an easy way for the phone companies to score a little extra cash, at your expense. I wonder how much money they make from prepaid cards over the course of a year? Good question.

At present, there are three phone companies in the Commonwealth. Of the three, two of them have prepaid cards, and they all expire in 30 days. As Elvis might have said, "Uh, that just ain't right..."

So the question before us is this: what is the AG's Office of Consumer Protection doing about this? Hello? Anybody home? This is a crime, and redressed via an indictment, especially if the crime is willfully committed.

The defendants might protest, as they certainly will. "We didn't know it was a crime to take money from our customers without their consent." Yep, try that before a judge and see how far you get.

I also talked with another customer service rep from a different phone service provider. He told me that he bought five 10-dollar cards at a time so he would always have telephone service. He was obviously throwing his money away, money which was his, which had earned. But he played by the lousy rules and knew that whatever he didn't spend, the phone company would just take it.

No matter how you spin it, or what excuses the phone service provider trots out, theft is a crime. No person or business or institution has the right to take your property, even if it's via a phone card.

In a more perfect world, the money you put into your phone stays there until you use it up. It would be exceedingly kind if the phone provider sent you a little text, "You have \$1 left on your account." I would love that instead of "You have a zero balance."

Russ Mason
As Teo, Saipan

Using debit cards

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on debit cards.

Debit cards are a way to pay for things. They use money from your checking account at the bank. They can be convenient. But to avoid spending more money than you have, keep track of how much you spend.

How to I choose a debit card?

A bank or credit union usually gives you a debit card when you open a checking account. Compare the services and fees at a few banks and credit unions. Go to the website and/or visit in-person. Find out what the fee is if you:

- have a checking account;
- use a debit card;
- get cash from ATMs at other banks;
- have less money in your account than the bank requires; and
- spend more money than you have in your account.

Compare the answers. Find the bank or credit union that meets your needs.

How can I protect my debit card?

You should:

- keep your debit card number and PIN private;
- do not use your debit card to buy things online;
- if you lose your debit card, report it to your bank or credit union right away. Ask your bank to cancel the card and send you another card; and
- ask for account alerts by email or text message.

This can let you know if your account has less money in it than you think.

How can I keep track of my money?

To keep track of your money:

- write down how much money you spend with your debit card;
- write down how much money you take out of the ATM and remember to add the fees;
- use your monthly budget to schedule payments for regular bills;
- Page 2 of 2
- look at your bank statement whenever it comes and make sure it is what you expected; and
- ask your bank or credit union to send you email or text alerts. Some banks contact you if your balance goes below an amount you set.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program shares FTC and/or Federal Communications Commission publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes.

If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

CUTTING

From Page 10

states. Let's hope there was no even wink-of-the-eye U.S. approval of the action against Qatar in the meetings in Riyadh. So much for the U.S. policy investment in Sunni unity versus the IS.

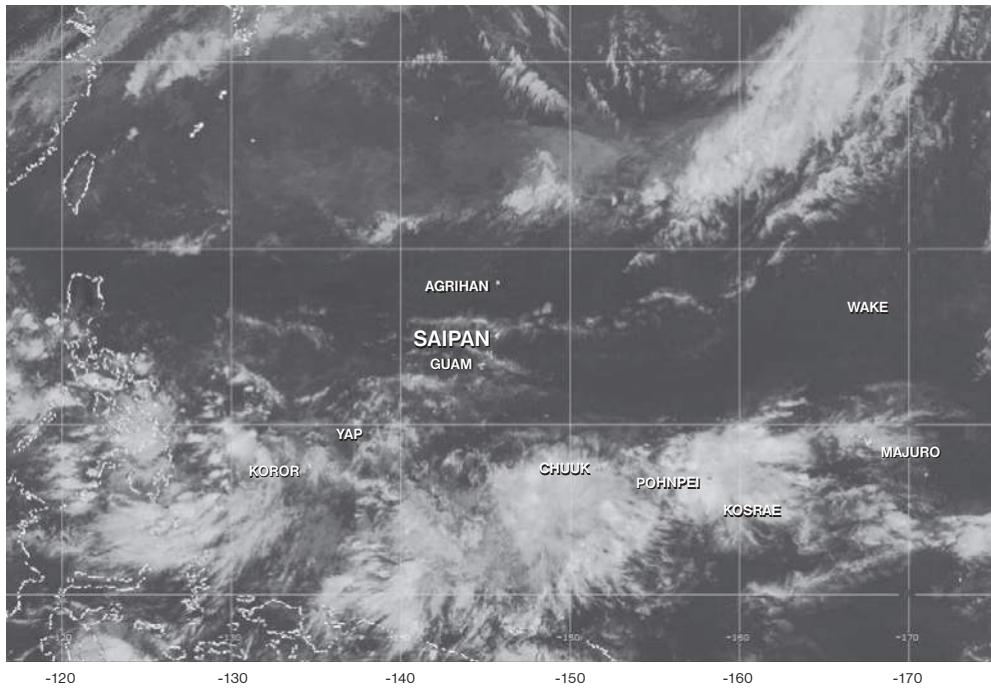
The U.S. relationship with Qatar has proved valuable for many years and should not be jettisoned carelessly now, particularly at the behest of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. ▲ 89° ▼ 78°	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. ▲ 89° ▼ 78°	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 89° ▼ 78°	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 89° ▼ 78°	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. ▲ 89° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:52 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

High pressure to the north of Marianas continues to slowly drift eastward. Due to a weak pressure gradient south of the high, light to gentle winds are expected to continue through the beginning of next week. Maintained the inherited forecast for increasing cloud cover on Monday and Tuesday for now, though this is looking less likely.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	90	81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86	78 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	85	73 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85	80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86	79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85	80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84	80 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:56 AM	LOW TIDE	1.05
6:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
1:27 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.12
8:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.76

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:41 AM	5:40 PM
Friday	-	5:24 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	-	6:09 AM	7:18 PM
Sunday	-	6:56 AM	8:06 PM
Monday	-	7:45 AM	8:54 PM

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 8, 2017

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)		
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN		
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:00pm
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm
LJ652	5:20am	9:10am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN		
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	8:05am+1
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM		
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN		
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	HX076	5:50pm
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	6:3		

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD SALE

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

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Business

Qatar's crisis is impacting business, millions of people

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Hatoon al-Fassi's children will have their final exams for school in Qatar in three weeks' time, but as Saudi nationals they have just two weeks to leave the country under new measures being felt by ordinary people and businesses there.

The political storm surrounding Qatar is impacting life in one of the world's biggest natural gas producers and travel hubs that relies on food imports. Millions of people have already been affected, with many Arab residents in Qatar unsure of their fate.

Years of tensions in Gulf relations burst to the surface on Monday when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt severed ties with Qatar. The four Arab countries shut down land, sea and air links with Qatar, accusing it of supporting terror groups in the region, interfering in their sovereign affairs and backing groups that undermine political stability.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain also ordered their citizens—who travel visa free throughout the six-nation Gulf bloc that includes Qatar—to leave the peninsula nation and warned against travel to or transit through Qatar. The fate of some 300,000 Egyptian residents there remains unclear.

"The situation is very hard for me. It's as if life has been flipped on its head," said al-



Graphic: Staff, TNS

Fassi, the Saudi professor who teaches Gulf Affairs and Women's Studies at Qatar University. "I have responsibilities here that are time sensitive and final exams."

The effect of Monday's punitive measures on Qatar was immediate. Panicked residents rushed to grocery stores to stock up on essential food items as hundreds of trucks transporting food and

Uber dismisses over 20 employees after law firm's probe

DETROIT (AP)—Uber has fired more than 20 employees after a law firm investigated complaints of sexual harassment, bullying, discrimination and other violations of company policies.

The recent firings included both managers and lower-level workers, some of whom retaliated against employees after they complained about bad conduct at the ride-hailing firm, said Bobbie Wilson, a Perkins Coie partner involved in the investigation.

Uber Technologies Inc. retained the firm after former engineer Susan Fowler posted a blog in February about sex harassment at the company. Fowler wrote that on her first day at work her boss propositioned her in a series of messages.

The Perkins Coie probe is separate from one being done by former Attorney General Eric Holder. He is likely to make broader recommenda-

tions on how to change Uber's culture when his report is released publicly next week.

Separately, Uber announced Tuesday that it has hired Apple marketing executive Bozoma Saint John, who will be Uber's chief brand officer. She ran global consumer marketing of Apple Music and iTunes. Her task at Uber will be to improve its brand image so people like it as well as they like the company's ride services, an Uber spokeswoman said.

After Fowler's blog posting, Uber set up a 24-hour hotline to take complaints from employees, and hired Perkins Coie to investigate them. The firm checked into 215 complaints, and 57 remain under investigation. The hotline will remain in operation.

The probe into Fowler's complaints is still underway, and Wilson wouldn't say if any of those fired, or 31 other employees placed in counsel-

construction materials were stopped from entering Qatar from Saudi Arabia. Qatar, a mostly desert nation that juts off Saudi Arabia's eastern coast, imports more than 40 percent of its food needs through its only land border with Saudi Arabia.

Qatar's stock market fell by more than 7 percent Monday, though it recovered somewhat Tuesday.

Nation

Trump wishes Comey luck

WASHINGTON (AP)—

The White House and its allies are scrambling for ways to offset potential damage from fired FBI Director James Comey's highly anticipated congressional testimony, an appearance that could expose new details about his discussions with President Donald Trump about the federal investigation into Russia's election meddling.

Asked about the testimony, Trump on Tuesday was tight-lipped: "I wish him luck," he told reporters before a meeting with lawmakers.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday evening a person familiar with the situation said Comey had told Attorney General Jeff Sessions that he did not want to be left alone with Trump.

The person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter by name and spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the comment was made because of concerns Comey had about Trump.

It was not immediately clear when the conversation occurred. But The New York Times, which first reported the interaction with Sessions, said it came after Trump had asked Comey in February to end an FBI investigation into Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior declined

to comment. He said Sessions "doesn't believe it's appropriate to respond to media inquiries on matters that may be related to ongoing investigations."

Trump's White House and its allies are crafting a strategy aimed at undermining Comey's credibility. Both White House officials and an outside group that backs Trump plan to hammer Comey in the coming days for misstatements he made about Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails during his last appearance on Capitol Hill.

An ad created by the Trump Great America Alliance—a nonprofit "issues" group that isn't required to disclose its donors—casts Comey as a "showboat" who was "consumed with election meddling" instead of focusing on combating terrorism. The 30-second spot is slated to run digitally on Wednesday and appear the next day on CNN and Fox News.

The Republican National Committee has been preparing talking points ahead of the hearing, which will be aired live on multiple TV stations. An RNC research email Monday issued a challenge to the lawmakers who will question Comey. There's bipartisan agreement, the email says, that Comey "needs to

answer a simple question about his conversations with President Trump: If you were so concerned, why didn't you act on it or notify Congress?"

Comey's testimony before the Senate intelligence committee marks his first public comments since he was abruptly ousted by Trump on May 9. Since then, Trump and Comey allies have traded competing narratives about their interactions. The president asserted that Comey told him three times that he was not personally under investigation, while the former director's associates allege Trump asked Comey if he could back off an investigation into Michael Flynn, who was fired as national security adviser because he misled the White House about his ties to Russia.

Democrats have accused Trump of firing Comey to upend the FBI's Russia probe, which focused in large part on whether campaign aides coordinated with Moscow to hack Democratic groups during the election. Days after Comey's firing, the Justice Department appointed a special counsel, former FBI Director Robert Mueller, to oversee the federal investigation.

Fear of deportation drives people off food stamps

NEW YORK (AP)—A

crackdown on illegal immigration under President Donald Trump has driven some poor people to take a drastic step: opt out of federal food assistance because they are fearful of deportation, activists and immigrants say.

People who are not legal residents of the U.S. are not eligible to take part in what is formally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

But many poor families include a mix of non-legal residents and legal ones, such as children who have citizenship because they were born in the U.S. In those cases, it is often an adult who is not a legal resident who submits the application.

Some now feel that is too dangerous under a president who has made immigration enforcement a priority. Throughout the U.S., there are accounts of people resisting efforts of nonprofit orga-

nizations to sign them up for food stamps, letting benefits lapse or withdrawing from the program because of the perceived risk.

"They don't want to put their name and address on a form for a government public benefit out of fear that they'll be sought out and asked to leave," said Teresa Smith, executive director of Catholic Charities of Orange County, California.

The food stamp program provides monthly payments, typically about \$125 per eligible household member, to poor families to buy essential staples. Going without can be an extreme decision, advocates say.

"This means less food on the table, fewer meals in houses where the kids have rights because they are U.S. citizens," said Andrew Hammond, an attorney for Chicago's Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law.

It is not possible to deter-



mine the extent of the phenomenon. The number of food stamp recipients has declined as the U.S. recovers from the Great Recession and people could drop out for various reasons.

A 52-year-old woman interviewed in New York City, a Mexican in the country illegally, told The Associated Press she was motivated in January to drop a benefit that was supporting her teenage daughter, a U.S. citizen, purely because she was afraid of being in the food stamp system, which requires applicants to state their immigration status.

"I had been told that it's OK to apply for food stamps. But, for the moment, I don't want to take any risks," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of her immigration status and was introduced to AP through an organization that helps immigrants, the Mexican Coalition of the South Bronx.

Asia

AP EXCLUSIVE

Video shows militants in PH siege plot

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—It was an audacious plot sketched in chilling detail with blue pens on the back of a paper calendar: Islamic militants in the Philippines, including one of the world's most-wanted militant leaders, would take over a key southern city in their boldest attack to date.

With unsettling calm, they spoke of taking hostages from a school, sealing off roads and capturing a highway "so the people will get scared."

Video footage and a separate screen-grab image of that secret meeting, obtained exclusively by The Associated Press, offer a rare glimpse into the clandestine operations of insurgents who followed through two weeks ago with an unprecedented assault on the lakeside city of Marawi, parts of which they still occupy today.

The images also provide the first visual proof that a nascent alliance of local Muslim fighters is not only aligned with the Islamic State group, but coordinating and executing complex attacks together. Among those at the table was the purported leader of the Islamic State group's Southeast Asia branch, Isnilon Hapilon, who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists and has a \$5 million bounty on his head.

The footage is believed to be the first of Hapilon since he and several other Filipino militants pledged allegiance to IS in 2014. The military had said he was wounded in a January airstrike; in the video, however, there are no indications that he is injured. Hapilon appears sitting with other militants at a table, wearing a yellow and black headscarf with a pistol beside his folded arms.



This image taken from undated video shows the purported leader of the Islamic State group Southeast Asia branch, Isnilon Hapilon, center, at a meeting of militants at an undisclosed location.

Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano confirmed the identities of those present, including Hapilon, who resembles other images said to be of him, such as those on FBI wanted posters. The militants have no spokesman and do not generally issue statements.

The images show that the insurgent alliance "has this intention of not only rebellion, but actually dismembering a portion of the Philippine territory by occupying the whole of Marawi city and establishing their own Islamic state or government," said Ano.

The military has an interest in allowing the AP to make the footage public. On Monday, six lawmakers petitioned the Supreme Court to nullify President Rodrigo Duterte's imposition of martial law in the south — homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic country — casting doubt on the gravity of the crisis there. Ano said the reality that "a full-blown rebellion" is underway should convince skeptics that this is not just "a small problem."

Government troops discovered the video on a cellphone they seized during a May 23 raid on a Marawi safe house

where Hapilon and other militants were believed to be hiding. They said the video had been filmed a day or two earlier. It was not possible to independently verify that claim. But a separate screen grab of the same meeting, obtained by the AP from an anti-terrorism agent, showed the militants were writing on a calendar dated 2017.

An army official allowed the AP to record the video as it played on a laptop computer.

Ano said the insurgents had been planning to attack Marawi on May 26, the start of Ramadan in the south. But the raid cut their preparations short and triggered instant clashes. Had the assault not been pre-empted, the militants likely would have seized more territory and inflicted far more damage.

As it stands, the fighting has been unprecedented; while militants have launched major attacks before, never before has any group occupied territory in the heartland of the Philippines' Islamic faith for this long. Two weeks after the conflict began, at least 178 people have been killed and the army is still battling to regain control with airstrikes and artillery.

using the acronym for overseas Filipino workers. "We need to adopt preparatory measures to meet the possible exigency." Filipino officials and recruitment agencies have been asked to ensure that Filipino workers in Qatar are safe and have adequate food stocks.

Japan, Vietnam to bolster maritime security cooperation

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and Vietnam agreed Tuesday to bolster their security ties through Japanese-funded projects including the upgrading of Vietnamese coastal patrol capabilities, defense equip-

World

Man attacks Paris police with tool at Notre Dame 'for Syria'

PARIS (AP)—An assailant wielding a hammer attacked Paris police guarding Notre Dame Cathedral on Tuesday, crying "This is for Syria!" before being shot and wounded by officers outside one of France's most popular tourist sites.

At least 600 people were blocked inside the iconic 12th century church while police first secured the streets around it, then combed the pews while visitors sat with their hands raised for the check. Others fled in panic from the sprawling esplanade outside the cathedral.

The assault was the latest act of violence targeting security forces at high-profile sites in France, which remains under a state of emergency after a string of Islamic extremist attacks.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but police searching a residence linked to the attacker in the Paris suburb of Cergy-Pontoise found a declaration of allegiance to the Islamic State group, according to the Paris prosecutor's office.

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb told reporters that a police officer in a three-person patrol was lightly wounded in the attack, and the assailant was shot and wounded by a fellow officer.



Source: AP Graphic: Staff, TNS

The attacker's condition was being evaluated.

"A person came up behind the police officers, armed with a hammer, and started to hit the police officer," he said.

The man yelled "This is for Syria," Collomb said, adding that the attacker appeared to have acted alone.

A hammer and kitchen knives were found on the assailant, as well as a student identity card indicating he was from Algeria, Collomb said. He said authorities were working to verify the card's authenticity.

"We have passed from a very sophisticated terrorism to a terrorism where any individual can do it," he said. "We destroyed our family's pride."

London attackers were chef, clerk and 'suspicious' Italian

LONDON (AP)—Details emerged Tuesday of the three London Bridge attackers: a Pakistan-born failed customer service clerk with links to one of Europe's most prolific hate preachers, a Moroccan pastry chef whose partner said he once went swimming rather than see his daughter and an Italian man who told authorities he "wanted to be a terrorist."

At least two of the men were known to British intelligence and law enforcement officials, raising questions about whether anything could have been done to stop the attack, which began Saturday when the men drove a rented van into a crowd and then leaped out to stab people who crossed their paths. Seven were killed and nearly 50 wounded. All three of the attackers were shot dead by police.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said it was fair to ask how the attackers "slipped through our net."

Security has become a key

strument can be used for attacks," the interior minister said.

The head of the Municipal Police Defense Union, Cedric Michel, said the attacker was about 40 years old. A police official from another union confirmed the age of 40. The second official asked to remain anonymous to discuss the investigation.

The incident happened around 4:20 p.m. A large number of police cars descended on the Ile de Cite island in the Seine River, where the celebrated cathedral is located.

Authorities told people to stay away from the area and some took refuge inside the cathedral. People inside Notre Dame, the nearby Sainte-Chapelle chapel noted for its stained glass, and area bars and cafes were told to stay inside while the police operation was underway.

Among the several hundred people ordered to remain inside the cathedral was a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nancy Soderberg. She was admiring the church's stained glass windows when a French announcement came on urging those inside to stay calm as police dealt with an incident outside.

Butt, 27, embraced radical Islam during his time in London and was once filmed in a documentary called "The Jihadis Next Door." In the film, he was seen with a group unfurling a black-and-white flag associated with the Islamic State group. The men were followers of Anjem Choudary, a preacher who was jailed for his support of the Islamic State and who once praised the Sept. 11 attackers.

It is thought that Choudary played a key role in Butt's radicalization, according to a British government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk about the ongoing investigation. Choudary's now-banned al-Muhajiroun group was linked to one of Butt's alleged connections, Saeed Shahid, according to the British government official who again spoke on condition of anonymity.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines bars workers from traveling to Qatar

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—The Philippine government temporarily suspended the deployment of Filipino workers to Qatar on Tuesday, fearing food riots and other potential problems amid the diplomatic crisis gripping the tiny Gulf nation, the labor secretary said. Silvestre Bello said there was no plan yet to repatriate the more than 200,000 Filipino workers in Qatar. "If anything happens and they run out of food and food riots take place, definitely our OFWs will be the first victims," Bello said,

ment and technology transfer amid concerns about China's increasingly assertive activity in regional seas. Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, held talks in Tokyo and shared "deep concern over the complex developments" involving China in the South China Sea. They urged China—without referring to it by name—to avoid taking actions to change the status quo and escalate regional tensions. China claims virtually all of the South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by several other countries in the region including Vietnam.

TOKYO (AP)—Japan and Vietnam agreed Tuesday to bolster their security ties through Japanese-funded projects including the upgrading of Vietnamese coastal patrol capabilities, defense equip-

Focus



Are new Trump hotels exploiting PRESIDENCY or just BUSINESS?

Eric Danziger, CEO of Trump Hotels, left, joins Eric Trump, center, and Donald Trump Jr., both of whom are executive Vice Presidents of The Trump Organization, as the trio poses for a photograph during an event for Scion Hotels, Monday, June 5, 2017, in New York.

By BERNARD CONDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The name of the new hotel chain is American Idea. It was inspired by stories heard in small towns on the campaign trail. The owner is now president of the United States.

That said, the Trump Organization wants to make something perfectly clear: It is not exploiting the presidency for profit.

The suggestion is “pure, unadulterated nonsense,” said Eric Danziger, CEO of the company’s hotel division, Trump Hotels. “I’m sure you’ve heard of American Express. I’m sure you’ve heard of American Airlines. ... We didn’t invent the word ‘American.’”

President Donald Trump has been criticized for raising membership fees at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida, boasting of his new Washington hotel that has become a favorite spot for foreign diplomats, and benefiting from trademark approvals from China for possible future business there.

Now comes his company’s latest venture: a hotel chain.

The American Idea chain was unveiled Monday night in New York at a Trump Tower party hosted by the presi-

dent’s two adult sons, Eric and Don Jr., and featuring a video showing the Washington Mall.

The first family plans to franchise the mid-market hotels, taking a cut of revenue, and leaving the management and ownership of the buildings to other developers. The first three are planned for Mississippi.

“They’re cashing in on the red states,” said Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert and law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. “I’m not surprised that the Trump family would look to opportunities to commercially exploit his political success.”

Ethics expert Edwin Williamson, a former State Department legal adviser, isn’t so bothered by the new chain. He noted that the president is not bound by the federal ethics laws that limit other public officials from pursuing business interests while in office, and said he thinks Trump critics and the media are too fast to see conflicts of interest where there are none.

“There may be people who want to do business with them because they are the president’s sons. But I don’t know what you do about that,” Williamson said. Anyway, he added, the deals struck will probably be “normal business transactions that meet the standard of the marketplace.”

The first outside partners for American Idea were introduced Monday and quickly established their appeal as embodiments of the American dream. Sons of a refugee from India, Suresh and Dinesh Chawla spoke of an America full of promise and profit, if you work hard enough—and maybe get advice from a real estate mogul along the way.

Suresh told the story of how his late father, founder of Chawla Hotels of Cleveland, Mississippi, was brazen enough to call Donald Trump looking for money for his new hotel chain more than quarter of a century ago.

Trump turned the immi-

grant down, calling his venture “small fry.” But he did spend time on the phone, said Suresh, giving advice on ways to secure a loan elsewhere. Chawla Hotels now owns 17 hotels.

As a franchising fee, Trump Hotels CEO Danziger said he expects to earn less than the typical 9 to 12 percent cut of revenue charged by others, at least initially while the chain is rolled out.

The Chawla brothers plan to convert three Mississippi hotels now under other franchisee names to the American Idea brand, one each in Cleveland, Clarksdale and Greenville. Danziger wouldn’t

say how many American Idea hotels he hopes to build, but he talked big in an interview.

“It can go anywhere in the United States, anywhere there is an extended stay or mid-scale (hotel), that can be an American Idea,” he said.

The Trump Organization is also opening a fourth property with Chawla Hotels under its Scion brand, a more upscale, boutique chain launched last year. That one will open in Cleveland, Mississippi. Danziger said in March that he hoped to open as many as 100 Scion hotels in three years.

Washington University’s Clark said the new chains raise many conflicts of issues questions: Do the developers have other motives in striking a deal with the president’s company, perhaps to influence public policy? Will local governments help the developers in securing zoning changes or permits to curry favor with the president?

The new chains are “problematic for the same reason all his other businesses are problematic: It provides opportunity for people to influence him by sending business his way,” Clark said.

The rollout of the Scion chain hit a snag earlier this year because of just such conflicts issues. A Dallas developer who had signed a letter of intent with the Trump Organization revealed that he

planned to raise money for a Scion hotel in the city from unnamed investors from Turkey, Qatar and Kazakhstan.

The Trump Organization canceled talks with the developer after several news articles raised questions about whether the foreign investors might try to use their investments to influence the new administration.

Danziger said the Dallas developer would never have gotten past his company’s vetting, which had only begun as the media got hold of the story.

Before Trump took the oath of office, he announced a series of steps to help address concerns that his sprawling business holdings could lead to conflicts. He handed management control of his company to his two adult sons, vowed to make “no new foreign deals” while president and hired an outside council to vet any new deals his sons would strike in the U.S.

Danziger has expressed confidence that these steps can help avoid any ethical trouble.

As far as the Chawlas are concerned, Danziger said, they’ve been vetted fully. Their company, he said, is 100 percent owned by the two brothers. And he suggested they were perfect partners for a company under scrutiny.

“I wish I had their clean background,” he quipped. “It was easy to approve.”



Trump Hotels CEO Eric Danziger, left, speaks as Donald Trump Jr., center, and Eric Trump glance around the room during an event Monday, June 5, 2017, at Trump Tower in New York. The Trump Organization is launching a new mid-market hotel chain called “American Idea.”

Environment

Sea snail found in Florida Keys is the state's latest exotic invader

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—The discovery of a new sea snail in the Florida Keys—one with strange spiderlike powers—has scientists worried that they may be seeing the beginning of the state's latest exotic species invasion.

The stationary snail, which belongs to a family of mostly overlooked mollusks that attach themselves to shells, reefs, piers and anything else hard underwater, was first discovered on a shipwreck about seven miles south of Key West in 2014. Rudiger Bieler, a Field Museum marine biologist in Chicago and one of a handful of global experts on sea snails, found just three snails.

When he returned 19 months later, the three had multiplied into a colony covering the ship's deck, a discovery he documents in a new study published in the online journal PeerJ.

"It was amazing," he said. "Just looking at the rail on this sunken vessel, you could see hundreds."

The appearance of a snail, likely another Pacific export,



Tiny, translucent snails, also known as sea butterflies, provide food for salmon, herring and other fish. This shell's holes and pits, also produced by laboratory conditions, correspond with the most extreme damage scientists expect to see in the future as CO₂ worsens in marine waters near shore.

also highlighted what has become an increasingly important porthole into the spread of underwater exotic species: large ships scuttled for use as artificial reefs.

Unlike living reefs, where spotting new species lurking among the anemones or tucked into the coral can be

tricky, the ships—which must be cleaned before they are sunk—offer vast new swaths of uninhabited real estate. They provide familiar habitat to the many exotic species that arrive by ship, either in ballast water or attached to hulls. And with no predators or competition, even the puniest clam can

find a home.

Since 2002, Bieler and colleagues at Mote Marine Laboratory working to restore reefs, have been keeping a watch on wrecks like the USS Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, where the snail was found, for signs of stowaways. Florida has the

second-most active artificial reef program in the country and the world's third-largest barrier reef. With a string of wrecks in the busy region so close to living reefs already imperiled by warming oceans, pollution and boat traffic, they worry any newcomers could have serious implications.

"We're trying to figure out what really belongs here," said Bieler, comparing their efforts to restoring forests on dry land.

"Are we really seeing the native butterflies returning?" he asked. "Or are we seeing feral cats? In the marine environment, it's a little tough to know who are the feral cats."

When Bieler first spotted the snail, named the "Vandy" after the ship, he knew it was no local. Well-documented Atlantic worm snails, which range from Bermuda to Brazil, are relatively small. This snail was about the size of his thumb.

The first thing he did was take a look inside. Worm snails are one of nature's freakier freaks. Unlike typical coiled snails, worm snails make a shell shaped like a

tube, attach themselves to a surface shortly after birth, and never move. Some emit larvae when they reproduce, to catch on currents and spread. But if this snail did that, the fast currents around the ship would never have allowed such a big colony to form so fast. Instead, the Vandy gives birth to live babies that crawl a short distance, then cement themselves onto whatever surface they can find.

The Vandy had another secret weapon — its mucus. Using the same gland that allows garden snails to slither to and fro, it spews a web like a spider to catch prey and filter feed like a whale. It also eats its own web.

Once Bieler and his colleagues knew they were onto something new, the hard part came: figuring out where it came from. Unlike lionfish, the colorful menace from the Pacific and Indian oceans that has become Florida's poster animal for saltwater invaders, and other larger, more animated creatures of the sea, the data sets on invertebrates are relatively meager. Much of it is located in the vast, musty collections of museums.

Science Matters

New hope for tropical forests

The tropics are getting warmer and more rainy, but a new study suggests the tropical forests' long-term fate may not be as dire as has been believed.

Forests: A vital 'carbon sink'

1 Tropical forests – like all green plants – inhale carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air

2 They convert CO₂ to sugar and exhale oxygen (O₂)

3 They lock away that carbon by building their stems, leaves and roots out of cellulose, a carbon material similar to sugar



Climate trend hurting the forests?

Scientists worry that climate change in the tropics – higher heat, more rainfall – threatens the vital "carbon sink"

Conventional wisdom was that tropical forests need rainfall, but more than 8 ft. (245 cm) a year drowns their growth



New study: Heavier rain is not drowning all forests

Survey of tropical forests in 42 nations found that climate change is slowing growth in the coolest 5%, those averaging 68°F (20°C) or less

The rest are growing faster with the heavier rainfall



Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, one of Earth's most productive, carbon-rich forests, gets 16 ft. (5 m) of rain a year

Source: Philip Taylor of University of Colorado Boulder Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research; Ecology Letters journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY †JULIAN QUIDACHAY REYES

We, the family of the late †Julian Quidachay Reyes would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Holy Mass of Intention is being offered nightly at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at the following Schedule:

Friday, June 9, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 10, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 11, 2017 – 6:00 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.

Monday, June 12, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 15, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

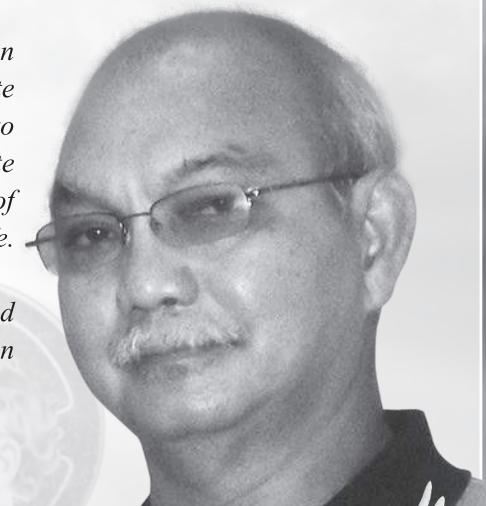
Friday, June 16, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 17, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

On the final day, June 17, 2017, dinner will be served after Mass at the Social Hall of Santa Soledad.

*Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank You & Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

THE FAMILY



Life & Style

DADS SOMETIMES KNOW BEST

NEW YORK (AP)—In time for Father's Day on June 18, a range of artists from film, television and music shared the most valuable lessons from their own dads with The Associated Press:



PATTY JENKINS, "Wonder Woman" director, daughter of a Vietnam War veteran:

"Perseverance and focus, first of all, because I think that that kind of job of being a fighter pilot is strangely difficult. You're on your own and you just have to put one foot in front of the other, figuratively speaking to get things done and to deal with whatever comes up. And that actually comes up. That is very present in my life as a director every day."

JAMES TAYLOR, music legend: "Just to be there for your family. I've tried to be as much as possible. If there is a struggle, that's it, trying to balance family life and life on the road."

HUGH JACKMAN, "Logan" star: "Education. He preached education. And passion, like find whatever you're good at then do everything you can to learn every bit of it, and don't go out into the world until you've studied."



CONNIE NIELSEN, Hippolyta actress in "Wonder Woman":

"My father always said, 'You belong in that room. No matter what, you can do whatever you want.'"

LUCY DAVIS, Etta actress in "Wonder Woman": "One of the things he said to me was, 'If you give, you get. But not if you give to get.' And I love that. And it made you realize that you just have to be the person you want to be just because that's what you want to be, not because you think there's going to be a reward at the end."

MAYIM BIALIK, co-star of "The Big Bang Theory": "He taught me a lot of lessons. My dad had a really big personality, and he was a really gracious person."

I don't know if it's a lesson in particular but it was a way that he was. He wasn't afraid to let his big personality show, and sometimes that was a good thing and sometimes it was a bad thing. But when he walked into a room you knew it. That's a powerful lesson, to see the presence of a person."

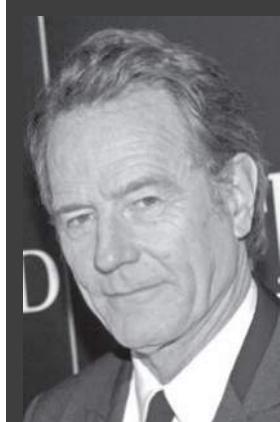
ASHLEY CAMPBELL, daughter of Glen Campbell, who is battling Alzheimer's: "This one piece of advice really stuck with me. We were on tour and it was toward the end of the tour, so he was definitely not as there, not as with it. So moments of clarity were very noticeable. He looked at me and said, 'How's your music going?' I, joking, said, 'It's going well. I am going to be a superstar!' Very self-deprecatingly. And he got really serious and he said, 'Be a super person and the superstar will follow.' That's Glen wisdom."

TOM BERGERON, host of "Dancing with the Stars": "Well we'd go out in the back 40 and, you know, clear some of the brush, slaughter a few hogs and then have a big meal. That's in the old days, though."



KATE MARA, star of the film "Megan Leavey": "The one that I sort of use every day, I guess, is just a good handshake because in this business, specifically, but I'm sure everybody meets new people on a daily basis, a firm handshake, I think, goes a long way. To this day there's nothing worse than kind of a half-ass handshake from someone. I think it says a lot about your character."

BARRY WATSON, star of "Date my Dad": "My father always said luck is when opportunity meets preparation, so always be prepared, which I try to be!"



BRYAN CRANSTON, star of "Wakefield": "You reflect on being a son, you reflect on being a father, and it's a good time. For past issues that I've had with my father, now he's passed and you kind of think of things differently. But the joy for me is being so proud of my daughter, who's now 24 and an actor in her own right, and independent and a freethinking, funny, talented young woman."

Cosby accuser to resume testimony in sex assault trial



AP
Bill Cosby walks from the Montgomery County Courthouse during his sexual assault trial, Tuesday, June 6, 2017, in Norristown, Pa.

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby's chief accuser said she shot down the actor's casual advances twice before she found herself paralyzed and unable to fight him off the night she took pills that he convinced her were safe herbal supplements.

Andrea Constand emerged from 12 years of silence Tuesday to testify at Cosby's sexual assault trial.

Constand, who returns to the witness stand Wednesday, described how her professional relationship with the Temple University trustee evolved into a friendship that she considered critical to the school's athletics department where she worked.

Republican Trump ally loses after vulgar video surfaces

NORTH WILDWOOD, N.J. (AP)—A former contestant on “The Apprentice” and Donald Trump campaign backer who

got booted from the Republican Party ticket after video surfaced of him using a vulgarity toward a woman has lost a

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Cyndi Lauper to help turn ‘Working Girl’ film into a musical

NEW YORK (AP)—A 1980s movie that starred Melanie Griffith as a secretary who breaks out of the typing pool is heading to the stage as a musical. Cyndi Lauper will write the songs for the “Working Girl” adaptation. Producers Fox Stage Productions and Aged In Wood Productions said Tuesday they’ll adapt the Mike Nichols-directed film for Broadway, with “Kinky Boots” composer Lauper teaming up with “New Girl” writer and “Tigers Be Still” playwright Kim Rosenstock on the story. A production timeline will be announced later. Griffith starred in the 1988 film as a shrewd, ambitious secretary who uses tricks worthy of the CIA to climb to the top of the corporate ladder. Sigourney Weaver played her boss. Harrison Ford was her love interest. Others who had roles include Joan Cusack, Oliver Platt, Kevin Spacey, Olympia Dukakis and David Duchovny.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver to receive posthumous Ashe award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver will be posthumously honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the ESPY Awards in July. Timothy Shriver, one of Shriver’s sons and chairman of the Special Olympics, will accept the award on July 12. Eunice Shriver founded Special Olympics in 1968 to help individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports as a result of her sister Rosemary, who had such disabilities. Shriver died in August 2009. The Special Olympics will mark its 50th anniversary next year. The Ashe award is given to individuals whose contributions transcend sports.

Gospel singers Dixie Hummingbirds honored with marker

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia is honoring longtime local gospel group the Dixie Hummingbirds with a historical marker. Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney unveiled a plaque Tuesday in front of founder John B Davis’ former home. Davis established the Dixie Hummingbirds in 1928 in Greenville, South Carolina. After several moves, the group settled in Philadelphia. The Hummingbirds received national acclaim in 1973 as backup singers on Paul Simon’s hit “Love Me Like A Rock.” They also produced their own version, which won a Grammy for best soul gospel performance. Tuesday’s ceremony highlighted the Hummingbirds’ groundbreaking hard-gospel stylings, which influenced musical performers including James Brown, the Temptations and Stevie Wonder. Among former members is the late Beachy Thompson, a vocalist and grandfather to The Roots’ drummer and DJ Questlove.

Man gets needed health care in a marriage of convenience

DEAR ABBY: I’m in a second marriage, which was only for the benefit of insurance so my husband could get insurance through my employer’s plan. We were together for many years before getting married.

He received the health care he needed, and I’m ready to move forward with my life as a single person. However, he now says he’s happy being married. THAT WAS NOT OUR AGREEMENT. I am not interested in spending any more time being dissatisfied with this relationship. What he brought to it was not all that I wanted, and he knew this.

I’m ready to move forward, but don’t want to lose his friendship. What’s the best way to approach this? I have spoken to him about another procedure he needs, but he is stalling.

MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

DEAR M.O.C.: You have devoted enough to this man’s welfare. In a marriage, both parties are supposed to be happy, and he already knows you’re not. It may not be possible to move forward and keep his friendship. If he needs another procedure, give him a deadline to have it done. If he hasn’t had it by then, feel free to file.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My grown son has broken up with his girlfriend. They were together for five months. He feels his life is over. His dad and I have been helping him get over it. He has

New Jersey election.

Brian McDowell failed to win a spot on the two-person GOP slate in the southern New Jersey district on Tuesday.

James Sauri and Robert

Campbell won the two spots in the 1st Assembly District to square off against a pair of Democratic incumbents in November.

The video is nine seconds

long. McDowell can be seen using a vulgarity to tell a woman she should have sex with him.

McDowell says he didn’t intend to be degrading.

McDowell appeared on “The Apprentice” in 2005 before getting fired. He coordinated Trump’s presidential campaign in part of southern New Jersey.

George and Amal Clooney welcome twins Ella and Alexander



AP

In this Feb. 1, 2016 file photo, Amal Clooney, left, and George Clooney arrive at the world premiere of “Hail, Caesar!” in Los Angeles.

and Marc Anthony and Rebecca Romijn and Jerry O’Connell.

Beyoncé and Jay Z are also expecting twins imminently.

She announced the pregnancy in February.

Groovy: Woodstock site gets national historic recognition

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The site of the 1969 Woodstock music festival is now officially recognized for its place in history.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo (KWOH'-moh) announced on Tuesday that

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts in the Hudson Valley town of Bethel has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cuomo says the festival that drew nearly half a million people to Max Yasgur’s dairy

farm was a “pivotal moment in both New York and American history,” and the recognition will preserve the landmark for future generations.

Bethel Woods Center CEO Darlene Fedun says the recognition furthers educational

and cultural initiatives at the museum and surrounding grounds that embody the “spirit of the ‘60s.”

The 800-acre (323-hectare) Bethel Woods campus is 90 miles (144 kilometers) north of New York City.

‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ to be issued as graphic novel

NEW YORK (AP)—“To Kill a Mockingbird” is going graphic.

An illustrated edition of Harper Lee’s beloved novel will be published in November

2018, HarperCollins announced Tuesday. The book will be drawn and adapted by British author-illustrator Fred Fordham, who worked on Philip Pullman’s graphic novel “The Adventures of John Blake.”

Fordham’s literary agency, Andrew Nurnberg Associates, also works with Lee’s estate.

Lee, who died in 2016, had resisted alternate editions of her

book until late in life. Only in 2014 did she permit an e-book of “Mockingbird.” The following year, she stunned the world by authorizing the release of a second novel, “Go Set a Watchman,” which was based on early draft of “Mockingbird.”

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

life has been richer from these experiences. So I would like to offer a belated thank-you to my mother for making me invite that little girl years ago, because it shaped my life.

KATHY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR KATHY: Your mother is a wise and compassionate woman. The lesson here is, popularity can be fleeting. But having compassion for people who need it is forever.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

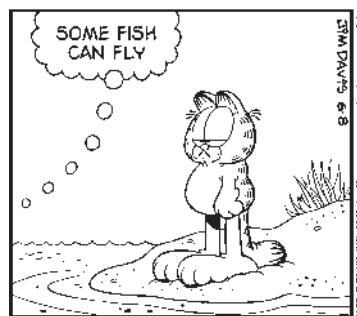
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

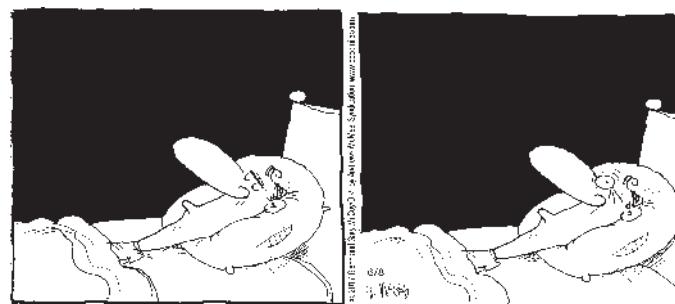


Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

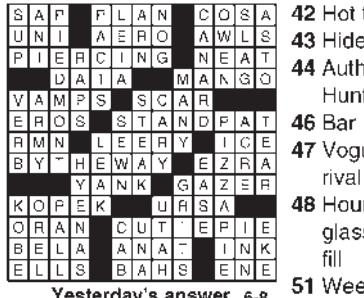


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Halt	DOWN	21	Post-op
1 Not naked	39	Attila, notably	1 Lummox	area	
5 Humorist	40	Long. crosser	2 "Damn	Erie	
8 New corp. hires	42	Meager	Yankees"	Canal	
12 Ore deposit	45	Distress signals	3 Tennis	mule	
13 Leading lady?	49	Impudent	25 CBS	logo	
14 Foot part	50	Tivo precursor	4 Negation	26 Sluggishness	
15 Lena of "Choco-lat"	52	Chorus syllables	5 Affluent	28 — -de-sac	
16 Caustic solution	53	Pond growth	6 Wall	29 Type of	
17 Hamlet, e.g.	54	Exist	7 Adolescent	call	
18 "Skyfall" star Craig	55	Pottery oven	8 Fictionalized	30 "Xanadu"	
20 Family girls	56	Charon's river	9 It has its charms	band	
22 Hill dweller	57	Science Guy"	10 Teen's woe	31 Bit of	
23 Prompt	58	Guy" Bill	11 Cows and sows	advice	
24 Vend			19 Type measure	36 Added	
27 One of eight			58 Coaster	levy	
32 Nay undoer				37 Hosp.	
33 Pair with an air				workers	
34 Yale grad				38 Celery servings	
35 "Time to get moving!"				41 Pacino of	
				"Serpico"	
				42 Hot tubs	
				43 Hide	
				44 Author	
				Hunter	
				46 Bar	
				47 Vogue rival	
				48 Hour-glass fill	
				51 Weep	

Solution time: 28 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maria Menounos, 39; Kanye West, 40; Julianna Margulies, 51; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 59.

Happy Birthday: Look for any opportunity that will help you expand your interests and get ahead. Chitchat will ensure that you gain support from those willing to assist you on your ride to success. Your way with words and charm will put you in a leadership position if you are willing to step up to the podium and take over. Your numbers are 2, 5, 19, 24, 33, 45, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional issues will surface if you or someone you are in a joint venture with misuses funds. Discuss matters before it's too late. Taking a wait-and-see attitude will lead to secretive behavior and a lack of trust. **★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend more time on personal growth and discovering what you want and less time with people who make you feel emotionally disenchanted with your life and what lies ahead. Concentrate on getting ahead instead of helping others advance. **★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take what you can get and keep moving forward. Your appeal will attract the help you require to bring about the changes that will bring you higher returns. A partnership will go through changes with positive results. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your emotions get in the way of your work. Take care of business before you decide to make a complaint or discuss your con-

cerns. Show compassion and consideration for others and you'll avoid getting into an unnecessary squabble. **★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional deception will lead to overspending. Keep your credit cards in a safe place and don't leave your possessions out in the open for someone to steal. Taking safety precautions will spare you a lot of trouble. 5 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Demanding individuals are best kept at a distance. Take care of your responsibilities, but don't feel guilty saying "no" to someone trying to force you to take on additional chores that don't belong to you. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Start a conversation with someone you know who has the potential to challenge your assumptions and inform your next move. Knowing what you are up against will give you the confidence to dispel any problem before it arises. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stay focused on what's important. Working diligently to get others to take notice will help you gain respect and accolades. Be careful when dealing with negotiations and financial matters. Smooth talk will tempt you to settle for less. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Speak from the heart, especially when dealing with matters that are personal or can influence your domestic environment. You can broaden your interests if you change your daily routine or join a group that attracts smart people. **★★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If possible, work from home or put your energy into rearranging or making positive alterations to your surroundings or the way you live. The results you get from being physically active will encourage you to adopt a healthier lifestyle. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Open up about the way you feel and how you want to move forward. Negotiate and take care of matters personally. Positive changes at home or to the way you live will bring you closer to the ones you love the most. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expect to face someone's mind games. Listen carefully and be ready to respond with direct questions. Gather the facts and do your own research before getting involved in someone else's scheme. Stick close to home. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, clever and magnetic. You are robust and adoring.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7		6	2		1
	9		4		
5			8		
4		3		8	
	4	6	1		
5		2		9	
4			9		
	1		6		
8		7	5	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	5	9	4	1	3	8	7	6
1	8	6	5	9	7	2	4	3
7	3	4	6	2	8	1	9	5
9	4	1	2	8	6	5	3	7
3	6	2	7	5	4	9	8	1
5	7	8	9	3	1	6	2	4
8	9	3	1	7	5	4	6	2
4	2	5	3	6	9	7	1	8
6	1	7	8	4	2	3	5	9

6/08

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PENNSYLVANIA'S RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK Sol.: 10 letters

W	G	W	N	I	B	A	C	E	L	G	N	I	H	S
E	N	N	E	A	E	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	T
I	I	E	E	N	S	S	L	O	P	E	S	N	L	K
V	D	E	B	B	O	A	T	I	F	M	I	I	E	L
D	I	R	E	D	R	Z	S	A	A	R	A	E	R	A
N	R	G	N	Q	F	H	O	M	P	R	R	C	A	W
A	K	R	T	I	A	L	O	S	T	C	T	A	G	A
R	C	E	O	W	R	O	N	D	L	N	G	E	N	T
G	A	V	N	A	R	I	N	A	A	N	R	I	E	
N	B	E	G	T	A	A	N	V	I	B	I	A	K	R
I	E	U	S	T	L	D	I	I	L	E	K	N	A	S
R	S	E	N	H	M	L	K	D	L	A	I	I	Y	M
O	R	U	G	A	L	S	S	O	R	H	B	A	E	
O	O	I	R	U	G	A	N	O	G	A	L	A	K	E
M	H	K	S	E	K	I	P	N	R	U	T	C	S	T

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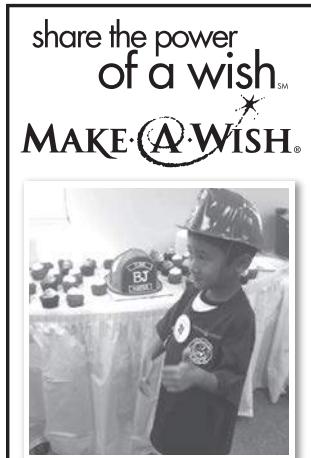
Bear, Benton, Boat, Cabin Area, Camp, Creek, Davidson, Evergreen, Ganoga Lake, Grand View, Highland Trail, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Kayaking, Landmark, Mooring, Mountain Springs, Ozone, Restroom, Rose, Ross, Shawnee, Shingle Cabin, Skiing, Slopes, Sugarloaf, Sullivan, Swimming, Trails, Turnpike, Walk, Waters Meet, Wild Yesterday's Answer: Quagmire

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Saipan Tribune

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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter) CIVIL ACTION NO.:
of the Estate of) CRISPIN CARMELO) 17-0129
MAGOFNA PANGELINAN,) Deceased.)
)
NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northern
Marianas Housing Corporation has filed a Petition
for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of
Crispin Carmelo Magofna Pangelinan, Deceased;
and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court
on Thursday, July 6, 2017, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons
having claims against the Estate of Crispin Carmelo
Magofna Pangelinan, Deceased, and to all persons
claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall
file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within
sixty (60) days from the date of the first publication
of this Notice.

Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael
A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White,
LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950,
Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall
be forever barred.

DATED: June 5, 2017

/s/ Clerk of Court

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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter) CIVIL ACTION NO.:
of the Estate of) FLICIA ORONIGO) 17-0128
SAHAGON,) Deceased.)
)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northern
Marianas Housing Corporation has filed a Petition
for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of
Flicia Oronigo Sahagon, Deceased; and that the said
Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, July
6, 2017, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons
having claims against the Estate of Flicia Oronigo
Sahagon, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an
interest in said Estate, that they shall file such
claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60)
days from the date of the first publication of this
Notice.

Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael
A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White,
LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950,
Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall
be forever barred.

DATED: June 5, 2017

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter) CIVIL ACTION NO.:
of the Estate of) CARMELITA) 17-0130
VALDEHUEZA INTONG,) Deceased.)
)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jerome I. Chinen has
filed a Petition for Letters Testamentary upon the
Estate of Carmelita Valdehueza Intong, Deceased;
and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court
on Thursday, July 6, 2017, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons
having claims against the Estate of Carmelita
Valdehueza Intong, Deceased, and to all persons
claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall
file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within
sixty (60) days from the date of the first publication
of this Notice.

Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael
A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White,
LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950,
Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall
be forever barred.

DATED: June 5, 2017

/s/ Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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CLOSING DATE: JUNE 30, 2017

TIME: 4:30 PM

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JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Scooter turns slugger, ties MLB record with 4 homers



CINCINNATI (AP) —

Kluszewski. Robinson. Bench. Perez. Junior. All of them can just scooter on down the list of great Cincinnati slugfests.

A diminutive infielder has done all of them one better.

Scooter Gennett put on the greatest home run show in franchise history and ended the night grinning at the sheer improbability of it. The Cincinnati native hit four homers — only the 17th to do it in major league history — and matched the Reds record by driving in 10 runs during a 13-1 victory over the shell-shocked St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday night.

"I was kind of laughing, to be honest with you," Gennett said. "For a guy like me to do that is crazy — a little short of a miracle."

With homers in his last four at-bats, Scooter became a slugger. Baseball's Hall of Fame called, wanting his uniform from the historic night. He stripped from his cap to his cleats, which were still wet from a celebratory on-field soaking by teammates.

"It's surreal, man, it really is," Gennett said, wearing backup clothes after the others were whisked away. "I'm truly blessed. I'm from here, born here. Watching all those guys play when I was little. And to do something that's never been done — I can't put words on it."

Try one: Unmatched.

No major leaguer had ever gotten five hits, four homers and 10 RBIs in a game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Gennett's 17 total bases also were a club record.

"He had a career night, a great night," said Adam Wainwright (6-4), who gave up Gennett's second career grand slam. "Guys do that now and then. He almost beat us by himself tonight."

Sure did. And he was the most unlikely player on the roster to power his way into history.

The 5-foot-10, 185-pound infielder was claimed off waivers from Milwaukee during spring training for a utility role. Some seasons, he barely hit four homers at all — he reached double-digits only once and had 38 career heading into the game.

And then, there was Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Gennett joined the Cardinals' Mark Whiten as the only players with a grand slam among four homers in a game, according to Elias. Whiten did it in 1993 at the Reds' old riverfront ballpark, driving in 12 runs that stand as the major league record.

Josh Hamilton was the last player to hit four home runs in one game, for Texas against



AP
Cincinnati Reds' Scooter Gennett, center, is lifted up by Eugenio Suarez as he celebrates in the dugout during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Tuesday, June 6, 2017, in Cincinnati. The Reds won 13-1.

Avila for his 11th save.

Daniel Norris (3-3) gave up four runs — three earned — and five hits in six innings. He struck out seven, but allowed two homers.

The loss ended Detroit's four-game winning streak. Avila homered for the Tigers.

Rangers 10, Mets 7

In Arlington, Texas, Joey Gallo hit a towering two-run homer that put Texas ahead to stay, and the Rangers ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over New York.

Nomar Mazara had four hits and also homered for the Rangers. Gallo's 17th homer put Texas up 5-4.

Mets starter Jacob deGrom (4-3) pitched only four innings for his second straight start. Austin Bibens-Dirkx (1-0) got his first major league victory.

Asdrubal Cabrera and Neil Walker went deep in the third for the Mets. In between those shots, Jay Bruce was robbed of a homer when Jared Hoying made a leaping catch just above the 8-foot wall in straightaway center.

Brewers 5, Giants 2

In Milwaukee, Chase Anderson pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings, drove in a run and won his third straight game for Milwaukee.

Anderson (5-1) extended his scoreless streak to 21 2/3 innings with the win. He walked one, struck out four and helped the Brewers beat the Giants for just the third time in the last 17 games against them.

Anderson collected his first RBI of the season and the fifth of his career in the third with a double off the wall in left.

Hernán Pérez added a homer for Milwaukee.

The Brewers roughed up Matt Cain (3-5) with four runs in the second.

Phillies 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Aaron Nola allowed a run over eight innings, Odubel Herrera doubled in the go-ahead run in the sixth and Philadelphia survived a ninth-inning scare to beat Atlanta.

Nola (3-3) earned his first win since April 20 and became the Phillies' first starter to pitch past the seventh inning this season. Pat Neshek struck out Adonis Garcia and ended the game on Kurt Suzuki's popup to catcher Cameron Rupp for his first save.

Jaime Garcia (2-4) allowed three runs in 7 2/3 innings.

opportunities.

The Astros' winning streak was the longest in the majors this season. They dropped to a major league-best 42-17.

Mike Minor (3-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Carlos Beltran hit his 429th home run for the Astros.

Rockies 11, Indians 3

In Denver, rookie pitcher Antonio Senzatela hit a three-run double and Mark Reynolds homered twice to drive in five runs for Colorado.

Carlos Gonzalez also hit a home run for the Rockies, who can sweep the two-game interleague set on Wednesday.

Bouncing back from a loss in his previous outing, Senzatela (8-2) allowed three runs in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out four and walked one in continuing to lead major league rookie pitchers in wins this season while also opening the scoring for Colorado.

Mike Clevinger (2-3) allowed five runs in four innings for Cleveland.

Orioles 6, Pirates 5, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Jonathan Schoop tied it in the ninth inning with his second home run of the game and Mark Trumbo singled home a run in the 10th to rally Baltimore past Pittsburgh.

Baltimore trailed 4-1 after six innings and 5-3 in the ninth. Schoop's two-run drive off closer Tony Watson knotted it at 5, setting the stage for Trumbo's big hit.

Adam Jones singled with one out in the 10th against Wade LeBlanc (3-1) and took second when Manny Machado hit a fly ball to the warning track in left. Trumbo then lined a single to center, and Jones easily beat Andrew McCutchen's throw to the plate.

Brad Brach (1-1) worked the 10th for the Orioles, who improved to 8-1 in extra innings.

Red Sox 5, Yankees 4

In New York, Mitch Moreland and Hanley Ramirez hit back-to-back home runs and Andrew Benintendi later connected off struggling Masahiro Tanaka, powering Boston over New York.

The Red Sox made their first visit of the season to Yankee Stadium, and the matchup between the longtime rivals and top teams in the AL East had the feel of October, mostly because of the raw weather — low 50s, windy and damp.

Overpowering closer Craig Kimbrel struck out five in 1 1/3 innings for his 17th save in 18 chances. He fanned one batter on a wild pitch, and struck out big-hitting rookie Aaron Judge on a 99 mph fastball to finish it.

Playing at the new Yankee Stadium for the first time without now-retired slugger David Ortiz on the roster, the Red Sox launched a trio of long balls and moved within a game of first-place New York.

Tanaka (5-6) lost his career-worst fifth straight start. He's been tagged for 27 runs and 11 homers in 22 2/3 innings during that span.

Drew Pomeranz (6-3) labored through a career-high 123 pitches in five innings to win his third start in a row.

Cubs 10, Marlins 2

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning, Anthony Rizzo drove in four runs and surging Chicago beat Miami for its season-high fifth straight win.

Arrieta (6-4) allowed two runs, struck out five and walked three in just his second win in the past month. The 2015 NL Cy Young Award

winner retired 16 in a row over one stretch, showing signs of rounding into form after a bumpy start to the season.

Jason Heyward had three hits and two RBIs as the Cubs remained perfect since returning home after a winless six-game road trip. Kris Bryant reached four times, scored two runs and robbed Giancarlo Stanton of a hit with a diving stop on a grounder to third in the third.

Jeff Locke (0-1) cruised into fifth inning with a 1-0 lead and retired the first two batters before everything fell apart for the Marlins in a hurry.

White Sox 4, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Aviail Garcia, Volmer Sanchez and Todd Frazier homered to help Chicago stop a five-game losing streak with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Chris Beck (1-0) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth inning to win in relief of Jose Quintana, who avoided becoming the first pitcher in the major leagues to lose eight games this season.

Garcia led off the seventh with a homer, snapping a 1-all tie against Chris Archer (4-4), who also gave up a lead-off homer to Sanchez on the fourth pitch of the game.

Jose Abreu added an RBI single in the eighth before Frazier led off the ninth with a homer off Ryan Garton.

David Robertson earned his ninth save in 10 opportunities.

Angels 5, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Kole Calhoun and C.J. Cron homered as Los Angeles beat Detroit.

Jesse Chavez (5-6) got the win, allowing two runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. The Tigers loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth, but Bud Norris struck out Alex

Warriors seem capable of anything—except another collapse

CLEVELAND (AP)—The possibilities seem endless for the Golden State Warriors when they are rolling.

A 150-point game isn't even out of reach.

"I mean, we could have gotten at least 140 the other night if we only had about 10 to 15 turnovers," All-Star guard Klay Thompson said.

Dominating like no team ever has in the postseason, the Warriors look capable of anything—except another NBA Finals collapse.

They take a 2-0 lead over Cleveland into Wednesday's Game 3, just as they did last year. The Warriors actually had a higher victory margin through two games in the 2016 Finals, but they didn't have Kevin Durant or a fully healthy Stephen Curry then.

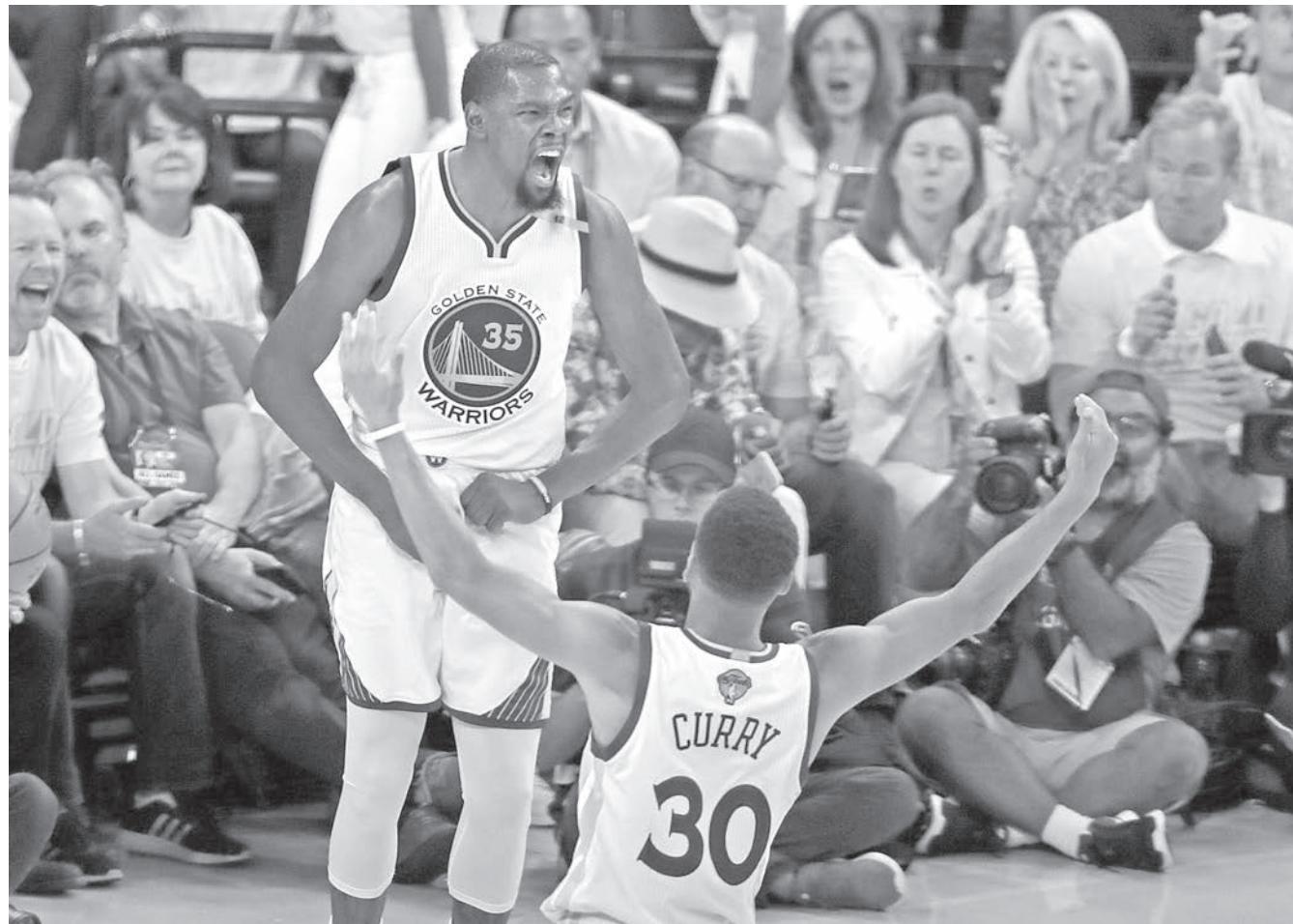
They do now and are playing much better basketball than this time last year.

"As a team, I think so," Thompson said. "I think we're moving the ball great, we're shooting the ball at a high clip and our defense has been unbelievable."

Somehow, the Cavaliers have to change all that.

They did last year, coming home after losing the first two by a combined 48 points and beginning the turnaround with a 120-90 rout in Game 3. The opponent and the situation are the same, yet things feel different.

"That's last year and I don't even know the feeling anymore," LeBron James said. "So I'm just mentally strengthening my mind and



AP
Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) celebrates with guard Stephen Curry (30) during the second half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, June 4, 2017.



said they noticed the mental effect their lightning-quick scoring bursts have on opponents.

"Teams have great nights in this league, and it's the NBA, so that can happen a lot," Durant said. "But when you're the one making the run, you could definitely feel the other team looking for answers and being deflated as the game goes on."

A year after winning 73 games to set the NBA's regular-season record, the Warriors can make more history if they sweep the Cavs to complete the league's first undefeated postseason.

They embraced the chase last year but said Tuesday that they're not thinking at all about 16-0.

"Game 3 has been rough for us historically, and especially in this building," Curry said. "So to give ourselves a chance at even coming close to thinking about that. We need to really, really just lock in and give every effort we have on tomorrow and how hard this 48 minutes is going to be to really seize control of this series."

getting my mind ready and focused on what tomorrow's going to bring, and so I look forward to it."

The Warriors committed 20 turnovers in Game 2 but simply shook that off with an NBA Finals-record 18 3-pointers in a 132-113 romp. It was the second time in the postseason they committed at least 20 turnovers, and yet they scored at least 120 points in both games.

They are averaging nearly 119 points and winning by a record 16.9 per game in the postseason, and they've re-

ally picked it up lately. Golden State has scored 126 per game on nearly 52 percent shooting over the last five games.

"We played against good teams, and we came to the Finals undefeated, and here we are up 2-0, so we're playing amazing basketball right now. The best we probably played throughout the year," center Zaza Pachulia said.

With a loaded lineup and enough hot hands to fill an octopus, the Warriors don't need to rely on any one player to take a lot of shots. If somebody is struggling, they can

just find someone else with their precision ball movement.

The Cavaliers don't have that luxury. They need big nights from James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love—and even then a roster of struggling role players has to pick it up.

"We just need our supporting group to be themselves as much as possible," Irving said. "Understand that they have a unique opportunity to make us that much better, and for a majority of this season it's been on myself, Bron and K-Love's shoulders. And we have done

a great job of getting everyone involved and making sure that everyone feels comfortable, but now we need everything and everybody."

The Cavaliers said they won't change their lineup or their schemes, insisting they want to play fast even though that's exactly the way the Warriors like it. Golden State has been punishing Cleveland in transition, and the way the Warriors have blown open the first two games by scoring in bunches hasn't just taken a physical toll.

Both Durant and Thompson

Durant's menacing defense leads the way for Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Durant is growing a little tired of questions about his ability to play defense.

"Underrated?" Durant responded when recently asked about the perception of his D. "My coaches don't feel like that."

Neither does he, and KD's menacing, 6-foot-9 presence from the paint to the perimeter is a big reason unbeaten Golden State is closing in on its second championship in three years.

While best known for his sensational scoring and shot-making from every corner of the court, Durant has been tough on LeBron James so far in these NBA Finals by smothering the Cavs superstar. The Warriors are two wins from a title going into Game 3 at Cleveland on Wednesday night.

Durant is chasing his first championship and seems determined to do whatever it takes.

So versatile with his length

and ability to alter shots, he even played center during Sunday's Game 2 when Draymond Green dealt with foul trouble in the 132-113 victory.

"I don't think there's many teams in the league who their backup is better than their starter," Green said. "So I think that's a luxury that we have with KD here, and when I went out with foul trouble, obviously he—to say pick up the slack is kind of a ridiculous term, because he's a great player, an MVP, one of the best players in the world.

So just the way he played on the defensive end, the way he played on the offensive end, he's been doing it all playoffs long, but in these Finals, he's really picked it up, and it's been huge for us."

Durant and Green have set the tone all season on the defensive end, establishing an intensity and toughness—and the rest of the Warriors had no choice but to do more during Durant's 19-game absence

this spring with a knee injury.

"If we're locked in on the defensive end, we'll score enough points," Green said. "Even on an off night, we'll score enough points."

After his NBA Finals failure five years ago against James and the Heat, Durant vowed to become a legitimate, respected defender who could make nearly as much of an impact blocking shots and crashing the boards.

He insists he can do even more.

"I've gotten better, and 2013 is when I feel I really turned the corner as a defender. Around 2012, that's when coaches stopped thinking they could go at me and get a basket or get me in foul trouble," Durant said. "But I don't expect anybody on the outside who really doesn't know the game to look at me as a defender because once you're labeled something that's what you're going to be. But I feel the last four or five years I've

definitely continued to get better and better, and smarter. I have the physical tools, but it's also about mentally knowing what to do."

Sure, James still notched his record-tying eighth career Finals triple-double and Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving had big nights. Yet Durant, Andre Iguodala, Klay Thompson and the others kept the pressure on the Cavs.

Durant blocked five shots to go with 33 points, 13 rebounds and six assists after going off for 38 points and eight assists in Thursday's Game 1.

"His defense was amazing, and we needed it. Especially with Draymond out," coach Steve Kerr said. "It's a small game and you got shooters everywhere and you have to be able to protect the rim with LeBron coming downhill, with Love posting up and Draymond's on the bench. So that's a pretty scary proposition for us. I thought that Kev's defense was unreal,

and it was probably the key to the whole game."

It could be that Durant's defense will quiet the critics at last, especially if he comes out a winner after that scrutinized move from Oklahoma City last July to join the super-Warriors.

"I don't feel like I get picked on or people call sets just to try to score on me. That hasn't happened in a while," he said. "I've grown leaps and bounds from where I was. I feel like I've been a solid defender in this league for a while."

With all of their offensive firepower, the Warriors often turn a stretch of timely defensive stops into scoring spurts that can swing the momentum. Or, in many cases, give them just the jolt they need to put a game out of reach for good.

"I operate under the assumption that our guys know what to do and they know their system," Golden State assistant and defensive specialist Ron Adams said. "We have an

eclectic system. There's freedom offensively, and we have some freedom defensively, and we're good at it."

When the Warriors added Durant, JaVale McGee, Zaza Pachulia and David West to a roster that blew a 3-1 Finals lead to James and fell short of a repeat last year, many wondered if they would have enough in the middle to defend the rim.

"It was a question mark for some people going into the season, losing (Andrew) Bogut and some other guys," general manager Bob Myers said. "Ron is interesting. He's always had good defensive teams. And we take pride in it, we care about it. I know the offense gets most of the attention but our players, they work at it, collectively, individually. They want to be a good defensive team. We try to do it all year. Sometimes it's better than other times, but this is the time of year you really need it the most. For us, we view it as important as our offense."

"It's not as sexy, but it's important."

Unseeded Latvian teen Ostapenko into 1st Slam semi at French

PARIS (AP)—Suddenly a Grand Slam semifinalist for the first time, Jelena Ostapenko sounded a lot like the carefree teenager she'll be for only a bit longer.

Ostapenko, an unseeded 19-year-old from Latvia, displayed unbridled joy after using the go-for-it strokes of someone too bold to know better to beat former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 at the French Open on a rainy Tuesday.

She cracked jokes at her news conference, then giggled at her own words. As Ostapenko left the room, she turned to her agent and whispered with a wide, proud smile, "My answers are funny." This is all so new to her—and she seemed as surprised as anyone to be where she is.

"I mean, of course, when I came here, I didn't expect I'm going to be in the semis, but I was playing better and better every match," the 47th-ranked Ostapenko said. "So I think if I keep it up, I think anything can happen."

Those last three words might as well be printed on posters to commemorate the 2017 French Open. With Serena Williams (pregnant), Maria Sharapova (denied a wild card after a doping suspension) and Victoria Azarenka (about to come back after having a baby) all absent, No. 1 Angelique Kerber upset in the first round, and defending champion Garbine Muguruza beaten in the fourth, this tour-



nament became wide open.

It is the first major since the 1979 Australian Open where no women's quarterfinalist was a Grand Slam champion. The out-of-nowhere Ostapenko's next opponent is 30th-seeded Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland, who eliminated 13th-seeded Kristina Mladenovic of France 6-4, 6-4.

Ostapenko and Bacsinszky, also a semifinalist at Roland Garros two years ago, will meet Thursday. That just so happens to be Ostapenko's 20th birthday and Bacsinszky's 28th—which they each knew, because they were doubles partners at a tournament last season and have become pals. After Tuesday's victories, they ran into each other in the players' gym and hugged.

"Lucky her, she's way younger than I am," Bacsinszky said. "But maybe lucky me, experience-wise."

Ostapenko has yet to win a tour-level title.

Before last week, she had only once made it as far as the third round of any Grand Slam tournament.

A year ago, Ostapenko lost in the first round of the French Open.

The year before that, she lost in the first round of French Open qualifying.

She is the youngest French Open semifinalist in a decade.

"Maybe," Ostapenko said, "kind of (a) new generation."

Against Wozniacki, a two-



Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko celebrates winning her quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament against Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki in three sets 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France. Tuesday, June 6, 2017. AP

sinszky said. "We had a hurricane, a sandstorm, and we almost had snow, too."

Bothered by the wind, Ostapenko trailed 5-0 at the start.

But she calibrated her strokes better as the air swirled less and it was clear Ostapenko was up to the task against the 11th-seeded Wozniacki, who is 26.

The matchup suits Ostapenko, the 2014 Wimbledon junior champion: She is 4-0 against Wozniacki.

So after being down 2-1 in the third set, Ostapenko grabbed the last five games, smiling and shouting and pumping her fist at the end.

While Ostapenko is on the rise, Bacsinszky is not long removed from nearly quitting the sport completely.

Four years ago, after foot and abdominal injuries, she took a hiatus from tennis to work at restaurants with an eye toward pursuing a degree in hotel management. In 2014, back on tour, she was ranked outside the top 100 and needed to qualify for the French Open.

Paris, though, brings out her best.

"It's the tournament closest to my heart," Bacsinszky said. "I love to play here."

UFC

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Zafir, just 2:46 into the opening round.

Li's other triumphs in UFC were recorded against Dhiego Lima in 2015 (KO punches) and David Michaud in 2014 (split decision), while his losses were at the hands of Keita Nakamura (rear-naked choke) and Nordine Taleb (split decision). Overall, "The Leech" holds a 12-4 win-loss record since his MMA debut in 2007.

Aware of his foe's reputation, Camacho said his camp is working on a fight plan against Li.

"Jingliang like everyone else has weakness (just like myself). My coaches and I are still coming up with a plan, but at the end of the day, he is an experienced athlete from China Top Team and once the leather starts flying, it's a fight," said the 28-year-old Camacho.

Camacho will be putting his 20-4 record on the line when he duels Li. Like his Chinese opponent, Camacho has also won his last two MMA fights, beating Korean Hyun Joo Kim (TKO/punch-

es) in Rites of Passage 20: Conquer in August 2016 and Gun Hwan Park (arm triangle choke) in ROP 21: Throwdown last month.

The Trench Tech bet expects a dogfight against Li and he is counting on the "Marianas Fighting Spirit" to survive his UFC debut.

"Everyone in the UFC is tough, fast, strong, and technical. The one edge I definitely have over him for sure is the 'Marianas Fighting Spirit.' I know it sounds so weird when I say that, but people from the Marianas know exactly what I'm talking about. It's the will to keep pushing forward when others are not willing to, the drive to work hard every day to reach goals, and the spirit of fighting hard and never giving up," said Camacho, who thanked all the people who helped him reach his goal.

"It would be selfish of me to say I made it into the UFC. We made it to the UFC Marianas. You were all with me every single step of the way. For that, I thank each and every one of you for the encouragement, support, and even to the littlest random handshake at the store. Thank you all."

MOC

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event after recording 14:16.77, while Napu was ranked third with its 14:32.83.

Meanwhile, Napu and SPC split the top honors in the 1,500m event.

Napu 1 prevailed in the junior girls as it collected 100 points for sweeping all for legs. Napu's youth female paddlers completed their domination this season after timing in at 9:22.53 in last Saturday's 1,500m race. SPC settled for the runner-up place with its 80 points, getting 20 for its No. 2

TENORIO

From Page 28

hustle plays.

Cabrera received the Finals MVP trophy at the conclusion of the finals series, while Tenorio was not present at the awards ceremony to get his regular season MVP plum and four other trophies. Tenorio was the batting champion (.429 average) and also led the league in runs (26), triples (4), and RBIs (22).

Titanium's Jerald Cabrera shared the batting top honors with Tenorio, while there were

The first Latvian woman to reach a Grand Slam semifinal in the professional era, Ostapenko credits her strong footwork to a hobby, ballroom dancing (she prefers the samba).

When Tuesday's play began, the wind averaged 18 mph (30 kph), with gusts up to 50 mph (85 kph), making balls swerve oddly. Serve tosses were an adventure.

finish (9:44.54) in the finale. Only SPC and Napu raced in last weekend's event, leaving Hoe Lokahi (36 points) and the combined Napu and Mt. Carmel School paddlers (15) at third and fourth place, respectively.

In the junior boys, it was SPC's turn to get the perfect score of 100 points and convincingly win over Napu Boys I/MCS (63), and Knights and Napu (38). SPC clocked in at 8:33.51 in last Saturday's 1,500m, while Napu registered 8:39.03.

In the 500m event, SPC also topped the junior boys after

also ties in the homerun and ERA contests. The Falcons' Giovannie Mira, GSM's Pat Alepuyo, D-9ers' E.J. Tenorio, and Titanium's Brian Camacho each got a home run champion trophy for rounding the bases once, while the Chalan Kanoa Bears' A.J. Lizama and GSM's Kelvin Kapileo were named co-ERA champion with their similar 0.00 averages.

Joe Palacios faltered in the ERA race, but the Titanium ace was named the strikeout king for fanning out 57 batters. Palacios also got the Pitcher

Players wiped their eyes when dust kicked up from the clay court. There were two rain delays totaling more than 3½ hours—both scheduled men's quarterfinals were postponed to Wednesday—and when matches resumed for good, the temperature dipped below 55 degrees (12 Celsius).

"We had all the seasons rolled into one today," Bac-

gaining 95 points following its first place finish last Saturday. SPC completed the sprint in 2:30.82, more than two seconds ahead of Napu Boys/ Knights (2:33.16), which totaled 83 points after notching 20 in the finale. Knights and Napu did not compete last Saturday to remain at third place with their 38 points.

In the junior girls, Napu 1 also had 95 points to defeat SPC (83), Hoe Lokahi (38) and Napu and Knights (30). Napu got the first place finish in last Saturday's 500m event after posting 2:44.63 against SPC's 2:45.72.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	32	23	.582	—
Boston	32	25	.561	1
Baltimore	30	26	.536	2½
Tampa Bay	29	31	.483	5½
Toronto	28	31	.475	6

Central Division

Minnesota	29	25	.537	—
Cleveland	29	27	.518	1
Detroit	28	29	.491	2½
Chicago	25	31	.446	5
Kansas City	25	32	.439	5½

West Division

Houston	42	17	.712	—
Los Angeles	30	31	.492	13
Seattle	29	30	.492	13
Texas	27	31	.466	14½
Oakland	26	32	.448	15½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	37	20	.649	—
New York	24	32	.429	12½
Atlanta	24	32	.429	12½
Miami	24	33	.421	13
Philadelphia	21	35	.375	15½

Central Division

Chicago	30	27	.526	—
Milwaukee	31	28	.525	—
Cincinnati	27	30	.474	3
St. Louis	26	30	.464	3½
Pittsburgh	26	32	.448	4½

West Division

Colorado	37	23	.617	—
Los Angeles	35	25	.583	2
Arizona	35	25	.583	2
San Francisco	24	36	.400	13
San Diego</				

35th CNMI May Masters Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Winner Aaron Elliot, center, of Guam is joined in the photo by the No. 2 to No. 6 finishers in the 35th CNMI May Masters Tournament and Saipan Bowling Association official Ador Dimaano, third left, during the awards presentation for the competition late last month at the Nami Bar of Kanoa Resort.



SBA secretary Ross Zapanta delivers the welcome remarks.



All Events champion Kathy Mersau is all smiles after getting her award from SBA's Ador Dimaano



Team event champions, from left, J.D. Castro, Simon Manacop, Alex Castro, and Aaron Elliot pose with their prizes.



Men's singles champion Simon Manacop, right, poses with his prizes.



Doubles winners Raymond Zapanta, left, and Simon Manacop pose with their trophies and SBA's Ador Dimaano.



The Top 5 finishers in the women's division of the May Masters gather for a photo. Janice Camacho, second left, was the first placer.



SBA's Ador Dimaano, center, poses with, from left Elena Soll, Yho Villavicencio, Mel Regis, and Ron Cal after handing their consolation prizes in the May Masters.



Scooter turns
slugger, ties
MLB record
with 4 homers

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Warriors seem
capable of
anything—except
another collapse

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

UFC appearance dream come true for 'The Crank'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dreams really do come true.

Setting his eyes on the Ultimate Fighting Championship since his first fight at the octagon cage more than a decade ago, Frank "The Crank" Camacho's time to set foot on MMA's biggest stage has come, as he will be featured in one of the 12 bouts in UFC Fight Night Singapore on June 17.

"I've been chasing the dream for 13 years. I've had so many ups and downs. So many people are telling me to change my career and do something else, people doubting the career path I've chosen, but I also have so many supporters—my family, friends, fans, coaches, and teammates.

Having the opportunity to finally fight in the UFC leaves me speechless. It's an opportunity of a lifetime," said Camacho.

The Marianas pride will be pitted against UFC veteran Jingliang "The Leech" Li in a welterweight match at the

UFC Singapore Indoor Stadium in Kallang.

The 29-year-old China Top Team standout has been seeing action in UFC since 2014 and holds a 4-2 record in MMA's biggest promotion in the world with his last two wins coming by way of knockouts. The

6'0 Li earned a TKO victory (punches) over Bobby Nash at the 4:45 mark of Round 2 of their bout in UFC on Fox 23 held in January this year. Then on UFC-The Ultimate Fighter 23 Finale last July 8, 2016, the Chinese had a similar TKO win by punches versus Anton

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REPORTER

ing 20 in the last Saturday's race.

In the 2,500 event, MOC broke the 14-minute barrier as it completed the race in 13:54.83. The club also took 25 points for topping the competition and ended up with 100 points after sweeping the four races this season. Maverick Itibus, Thomas Deleon Guerrero, Rich Salas, Billy Grow, Angel

San Nicolas, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Jose Quan, and Bobby Cruz suited up for MOC in last weekend's finale.

Coming in at second overall behind MOC was SPC, which wrapped up the series with 78 points, beating Napu in a close fight, as the latter tallied 74 markers. SPC finished second in last Saturday's 2,500m

See MOC on Page 26



Marianas Outrigger Club paddlers make their way back to the shore after finishing first in the 2,500m race during last Saturday's Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Sprint Season at the Kilili Beach.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, subdues Extreme Combat Korea's Gun Han Park, prompting referee Cuki Alvarez to stop the main event fight in Rites of Passage 21: Throwdown held last month at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Tenorio, Cabrera win MVP awards

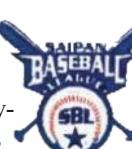
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REPORTER

2-1, against the Falcons last Monday.

The BSI Aces pitcher worked the mound in all nine innings and gave up only four hits and one run—the lowest output of the Falcons in the best-of-five championship series. Cabrera's

back-to-back defensive stops at the top of the seventh inning prevented the Falcons from tying Game 4, as he caught two straight grounders and left runners on first and second stranded. The Falcons had just scored one run in that inning to knock on the BSI Aces' door before Cabrera slammed it with his

See TENORIO on Page 26



Tenorio was awarded the regular season MVP trophy, while Cabrera took the Finals MVP plum for leading their respective teams this year. Tenorio helped GSM sweep the 14 games in the eliminations, while also topping four other categories. Cabrera, on the other hand, lifted the BSI Aces to the title-clinching Game 4 win,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The BSI Aces' Manny Cabrera, left, receives his Finals MVP trophy from Saipan Baseball League official Ben Jones Sr. during the awards ceremony for the 2017 edition of the league last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.